August 1998

DeafLife

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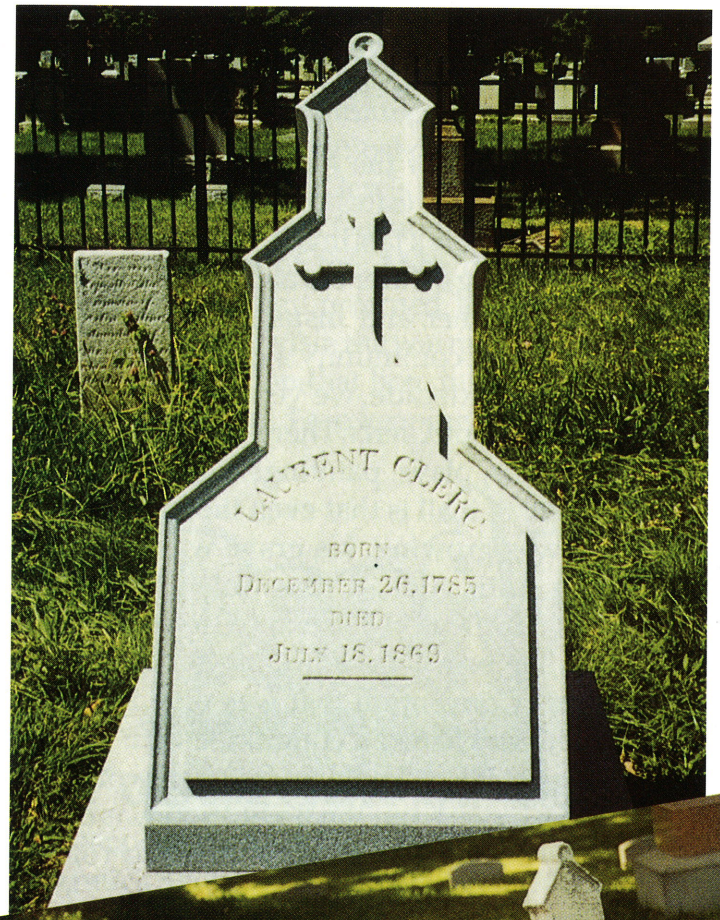

Top: the new granite headstones in place
Bottom: the original marble headstones

IN LOVING MEMORY

At last, the Clercs' gravesite gets a fitting monument

VOLUME XI, NUMBER 2 AUGUST 1998

COVER

DESIGN BY MATTHEW S. MOORE
PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUE PEDERSEN (TOP)
AND TONY ALLICINO (BOTTOM)

IN 1992, THE U.S. DEAF COMMUNITY seized an opportunity to show its appreciation for its greatest hero, Laurent Clerc. His gravesite in Hartford, Connecticut, had been all but forgotten. The twin marble headstones marking the graves of Clerc and his beloved wife, Eliza Crocker (Boardman), had been knocked off their bases by vandals and stood crudely propped up, half-buried, sinking into the earth, their inscriptions partly worn away by time and weather. A shocking sight? Yes—especially in view of that fact that Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet's gravesite in another Hartford cemetery had a magnificent monument. Someone had to do *something*! Thanks to Alan R. Barwiolek, someone did.

Here is the story behind the newest Clerc memorial, and an eyewitness account of its memorable dedication. 10

Publisher's Note

Deaf Life is starting its eleventh year of publication. We will continue to bring you a variety of profiles, news coverage, controversies, and hot topics.

The dedication of the handsome new headstones for the gravesites of Laurent and Eliza Boardman Clerc is a landmark event. It symbolizes the growing awareness and appreciation of Clerc as a teacher and inspiration, the North American Deaf community's greatest hero.

Over the past decade, we've seen a boomlet in awareness about Clerc. There have been new books, videos, plays, paintings, and stories.

The irony of it all is that even though interest in Clerc was growing, his grave was virtually forgotten until Alan R. Barwiolek located it (with great difficulty). Dismayed to see the state it was in, he promptly introduced a bill at the 1992 NAD Convention that was unanimously passed. It established a committee with a plan and a goal. Al B. did not live to see the completion of the project, but the dedication was coincidentally held on the second anniversary of his death.

With dedication, vision, and good teamwork, almost anything's possible. To change what needs changing, to right an injustice, to set up a memorial to symbolize a community's gratitude and esteem—all these can be more than desires. They can be realities . . . if we want them badly enough to make them happen.

Matthew S. Moore

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Peggie's Cove

UNFORGETTABLE ENCOUNTERS

■ Peggie Parsons volunteered to guide a group of seven Deaf French people during most of their visit here. They were thrilled to see the collections of Clerc's manuscripts and other priceless documents and artifacts at Gallaudet, ASD, and Yale, and were ecstatic about the statue of the Abbé de l'Epée at St. Mary's School in Buffalo. When they returned to France, they carried back good memories of their visit, the warmth and ki ndness of their U.S. hosts, and the recognition that here in the States, we cherish the remembrance of Clerc and are keeping his legacy alive. **24**

DeafView
READERS' VIEWPOINT

A QUESTION OF SELF-ESTEEM?

■ Responses to our "DeafView" question "Do deaf people worry too much about what hearing people think of them?" were almost evenly divided between "Yes," "No," and "Not Sure." One respondent believes that it's a question of self-esteem. Another considers the fears well-founded, since hearing people can, and do, say "incredibly insulting things" about deaf people behind their backs. Still another says, "I don't think so at all. The hearing world finds Deaf culture and the Deaf experience fascinating." Another feels it's a matter of the majority culture "ruling" the minority. Yet another asks, "Why, should I?" **30**

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Deaf Life

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PUBLISHER
Matthew S. Moore

CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Matthew S. Moore
Linda Levitan

COPY EDITOR
Linda Levitan

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Charles F. Bancroft

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
David M. Sell

ART DIRECTOR
Matthew S. Moore

CONTRIBUTING ARTIST
Tony "Mac" McGregor

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Diane White

COLUMNISTS
Michele Listisard
Peggie Parsons
PROTO-X

CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Raymond Luczak

ADVISORY BOARD
Dr. Bernard Bragg
Julianna Fjeld
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Dr. Frank Turk

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LETTERS

More language about Bummy

✏ *Our April cover story on G. "Bummy" Burstein (and the "teaser" on our Website) received numerous "raves" from his friends and colleagues on the E-mail network. He forwarded them to us, and we're publishing them all with the senders' permission.—Editors*

We got our new issue of **Deaf Life** yesterday. WOW!!! What a great article on you!! The author really did her homework. And the photos are great! Congratulations! The article really did you justice.

Shelley Bergum,
Executive Director
Deaf and Disabled
Telecommunications Program

✏ *See long letter below.—Editors*

It was great to see Parliamentarian *extraordinaire*, Bummy Burstein, featured on the cover of **Deaf Life**. Bummy's Parliamentary Procedure workshops in Hawaii had a lively following and made a positive impact there. It's not often that a sense of humor, love for one's subject, and skillful teaching are combined in one person, so it was a pleasure to see Bummy's multi-talents recognized and celebrated in **Deaf Life**.

Jim Fernandes, Ph.D.
Professor of
Communication Arts
(and former director of the
Gallaudet U. Pacific
Regional Center)
Gallaudet University

Eyes mine popped, saw picture of Bummy on **Deaf Life**. Me show friends, say I him know well—Proud you—good story, good pictures. Me learn more about you—Surprised, surprised me—Thumbs up!!! You deserve this!!

Gertie Galloway,
Superintendent
Marie H. Katzenbach
School for the Deaf

✏ *Bummy adds: Gertie and I tease each other using "ASL" in languaging; thus this.*

WWWOOOWWW! What a coverage you got!! The next thing is for statues of you to be erected on the campuses of CSDR and Gallaudet! The article was well done and the choice of pictures was good especially since I now can convince my colleagues that I once DID have dark black hair!! I guess you could not find a picture of your brother?? I could recognize some of the Boy Scouts in the picture but had a hard time putting names with faces. I think I recognized David Balacaier, Walter Schulman, George Schwartz, and, of course, you and your dad. I recognized other faces but could not remember their names. The cover picture is excellent as it captured the very essence of your character!

You certainly deserved all this special recognition, given all the important activities in which you have been involved. Bully for you, good sir, and my warmest congratulations.

Dr. **Victor H. Galloway,**
Chief Deafness and
Communicative Disorders
Branch Rehabilitation Services
Administration

Bummy, love that article on you in **Deaf Life** . . . you indeed grace the cover! Got to know you better also . . . a remarkable man! Glad Gally found you back then!

Astrid Goodstein,
Executive Director
Enrollment Services
Gallaudet University

Great WWW.DEAFLIFE Feature!! Patty made sure everyone in the office reads your article. We all love you, You know! No it didn't say anything bout your sex life. It truly is a honor to know someone who is as down to earth as you are and still knock over brick walls! But what a

LETTERS

marvel you are and how no one will ever be able to fill your shoes! You are our hero!! Do miss seeing you once a month! It is an honor to be able to say I know you well! Smile.

Nancy Hammons
Program Specialist
Coordinator, DDTP

Mary and I enjoyed the article from **Deaf Life**. It was certainly a well-deserved tribute to your lifetime of service to the deaf and to Gallaudet.

Bob Lennan
Former Superintendent, CSDR

What a wonderful tribute to the Deaf community's very own Parliamentarian! I commend **Deaf Life** for recognizing the achievements of this very fine individual.

Laurie S. Meotti
President, Connecticut GUAA Chapter

The article on you is a *bona fide* portrayal of you as a likable person and as a dedicated participant in the deaf, both as a leader and a service provider.

Lawrence Newman
Former Assistant Superintendent, CSDR, and Past President of NAD

Morning, Bummy!

I finally had some time yesterday to read the cover story about you in **Deaf Life**. What a wonderful piece!! Loved your baby pictures, too . . . smile!!

Thank you for being my friend, Bummy. My long association with you makes me feel special and honored.

See you in Texas!

Mary Anne Pugin
Executive Director, GUAA

Bummy,

Wow! I'm so impressed by your story and it was a perfect "bedtime" story for me (a nice way to end the day, smile)! It's nice to know a little more about someone in the GUAA group. We were always too busy with the GUAA affairs, no time for anything else (literally!).

'Til we meet again—in San Antonio? or Ole Jim . . .

Rachel E. Stone, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor,
Deaf Education
Assistant Coordinator, ASL
Specialist Program
Western Maryland College

How Bummy shaped CRS

Bummy Burstein served on the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program Administrative Committee (DDTPAC) from 1989 to 1997. Bummy was the first Chair of the committee and served as its Chair until the expiration of his terms in 1997.

During Bummy's 8 years on the DDTPAC, he made very positive contributions to the program in general and in particular to the California Relay Service. Bummy was one of the strongest advocates of the fact that relay users should be able to choose their relay provider, just as hearing telephone users choose their telephone provider. When California's relay contract with Sprint as a sole provider was about to expire in 1996, Bummy advocated strongly for changing the contract to a multiple-provider contract. He was certain that all of the major relay providers would want to offer service in California, even if it meant they would have less than 100% of the traffic.

Bummy was successful in convincing others on the committee that a multiple-vendor approach was the way to go. California released its Invitation for Bid (IFB), which established that any relay provider who could meet the minimum service-quality standards contained in the IFB and who would be willing to be reimbursed at the rate established through the competitive bidding, would be able to

offer relay service in California. MCI was the compliant bidder offering the lowest price, so MCI was designated as the primary provider for CRS. This meant that MCI would be able to use California's existing 800 numbers for CRS.

After the primary-provider status was awarded to MCI, both Sprint and AT&T (who had submitted bids) declined to offer service in California. They both contended that the authorized reimbursement rate of 69.9¢ per conversation minute, was too low to allow them to offer service.

After several months of low-quality service provided by MCI and many, many consumer complaints, Bummy was insistent that we must raise the reimbursement rate to motivate other providers to offer service in California. Bummy again was successful in convincing the other committee members that this step needed to be taken, and in June of 1997, the California Public Utilities Commission authorized an increase in the reimbursement rate to 89¢ per conversation minute.

In September of 1997, Sprint began offering relay service in California. So now, relay users in this state may choose to use either MCI or Sprint as their relay provider.

Bummy's perseverance and vision were influential factors in establishing the multiple-vendor environment in California. Bummy was also influential, however, in many aspects of our equipment-distribution program here in California. Bummy served on a subcommittee which worked with a consultant to perform a study of the availability of TTYs on public pay phones. The study revealed that the ADA has not been very successful in achieving more widespread installation of TTYs on public pay phones.

As a result of this study, legislation was introduced and passed in California that orders the California Public Utilities Commission to establish a program to install TTYs on public phones in locations throughout California that are not covered by the ADA. Bummy now serves on the subcommittee appointed by the Public Utilities Commission to set up this new program.

The Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program owes much of its success over the past 10 years to the contributions and the influence of Bummy Burstein. Not only has he been a leader nationally on many issues, but also his leadership has been extremely evident in California. His expertise in parliamentary procedure allowed him to be a very effective Chair of the DDTPAC, and that in turn allowed the committee to be successful.

Shelley Bergum
DDTP
Oakland, California

Tornado warning? *What* tornado warning?!?

(To: VITAC Distribution List)

As I am sure you already know, there was no captioning by any local Pittsburgh station during Tuesday's tornado emergency in the Western Pennsylvania area [June 2].

All of the local stations did a great job of warning their hearing viewers that tornadoes were moving through the area. Although KDKA had a constant weather crawl on the emergency, it did not comport with their announcers, who were literally warning specific areas to take shelter because a possible tornado was within five minutes from their area.

It is a shame that in 1998, the TV viewership that is dependent on captioning does not have access to [it during] local

LETTERS

emergencies that may be life-threatening.

I am not writing this letter because VITAC is looking for additional work. I do so because I have so many deaf and hard-of-hearing friends in Western Pennsylvania who are not being served adequately by the local television stations.

As you all know, the FCC failed to require full captioning of local news programs in last year's captioning regulations. What if hearing viewers didn't have audio on all portions of the news? Do you think the FCC would permit that? They say they will review their decision sometime in the future. They are, however, currently deciding whether emergencies must be captioned. This week's disaster is a good example why they should require such service.

As a captioning provider, we cannot go out and lobby these issues. However, we urge all of you to complain to the local stations about this issue, and also to address it with Meryl S. Icove, Director, Disabilities Task Force, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

Joseph R. Karlovits, President
VITAC Corporation
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania

Our "A&E" caption campaign: Access & Equality!

✏ The following message has been circulating through the community. Thanks to Raymond Luczak for forwarding it to us.—Editors

CLOSED CAPTIONING MISSING FROM A&E

The Arts and Entertainment Channel owns three networks: The Biography Channel, the History Channel, and the Arts and Entertainment Channel. Almost NONE of these programs, which are of immense interest to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, are closed-captioned! Further, they have hundreds of videos for sale that are not closed-captioned, and they have videos and classroom materials on historical topics for teachers, which are also not closed-captioned or accessible to deaf students.

It is time for EVERYONE involved in the deaf and hard of hearing communities, including interpreters, friends and family members, to write, call, fax, and otherwise communicate to the A&E Network that they are violating the federal rules and regulations that require accessibility to television programming. The commercials on their shows are captioned, but the programming is not.

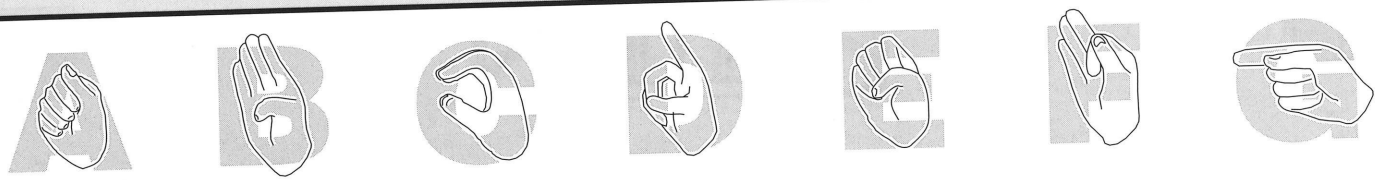
Interpreters and Transliterators who interpret these shows for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, including friends and family members, should begin to bill the A&E Network for their time, for EVERY individual served, until and unless the A&E Network begins to caption all of their current shows, and their videotapes, and the shows that are being rebroadcast.

Historical and biographical information is absolutely necessary information for the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities, as is information on Arts and Entertainment.

To e-mail your comments and complaints about closed-captioning on the A&E Network, access the Webpage at ✷http://www.aande.com/feedback/other.feedback.html and tell them how you feel, and tell them why you, and others, need this information, and why you are legally entitled to receive closed-captioned programming!

Do it now, and tell your friends, family members, and others in the community to do the same! Thank you for your support!

All letters must be signed and have a return address. No anonymous (unsigned) letters will be published, but we will withhold your name on request. Send letters to: **DEAF LIFE**, c/o MSM Productions, Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380. FAX: 716-442-6371. E-mail: deaflife@deaflife.com



FOR HEARING PEOPLE ONLY™

What things said by hearing people do deaf people hate the most?

We're sure that every deaf person has a few particular favorites, but we'd wager that the following four items are at the top of the list:

1.) "It's nothing."
2.) "It's not important."
3.) "I'll tell you later."
4.) The shoo-off gesture

1. & 2. "It's nothing"/"It's not important": This is what we often get told when we ask, "What are you talking about?" or "What's so funny?" We'd like to know why our family and friends see fit to use these rebuffs—after *they've* enjoyed, laughed at, or responded to a shared joke or story. Why should our access to shared information be denied just because someone else decides it's not important? Obviously, it *must* be more than "nothing;" it *must* have *some* importance. If it was important enough to be shared among hearing folks in the first place, it's important enough to be shared with us too. We resent hearing people's making judgements as to what social communication we can and can't receive. We recognize that a large proportion of all human communication *is* trivial. But don't we have a right to demand a fair share of it? If a joke or story is trivial or stupid, let *us* judge that—after we have access to it!

One Deaf woman told us that whenever anyone used these lines on her when sharing a joke with others, she responded by saying: "Please tell me too. I could use a laugh." It worked!

3. "I'll tell you later." One of us had a bitter experience with this form of brush-off. "At a sci-fi convention, Jean, an organizer from Ohio, told several other attendees an exciting anecdote about how she and some friends had dinner with an English actor we idolized. Basking in the afterglow of a happy memory, Jean described where they'd gone and what they chatted about. Everyone at the table listened with enjoyment. I understood nothing, of course; I watched with yearning and anguish. I wanted—oh, how I wanted!—to get the story from Jean. Either I asked her to please tell me later when things were quiet, or she told me she'd tell me later—I don't remember which. When I attempted to 'hold her to her promise' and asked her to repeat what she had told the others, she did so grudgingly, with a sour tinge of resentment in her expression, and the tersest of summaries. I was sorry I'd asked—but I *had*

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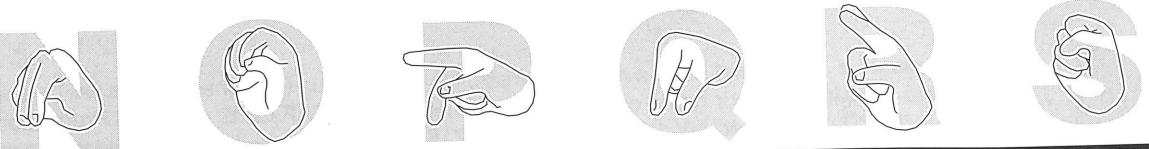

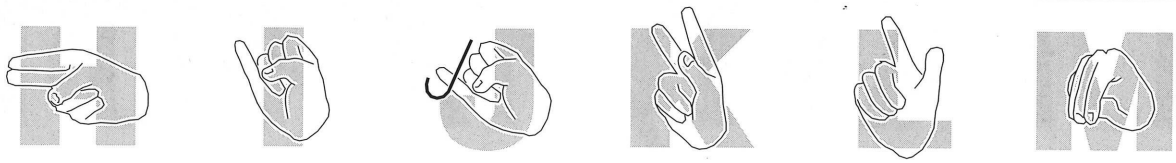

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to satisfy my curiosity. But I didn't understand the summary any better than I had the original telling, and I was too embarrassed to ask her to repeat yet again. She didn't like wasting her time on rehashing what she'd already told the others. For her, once was enough. I gave up on her."

Why do people say "I'll tell you later" when they have no intention of doing so? It's because most don't like to rebuff others outright, to appear rude or mean. "I'll tell you later" is superficially more polite than "Oh, shut up!" or "Get lost!" People have a tendency to say "nice" things that they don't really mean. Or maybe they do mean it at the time—for about a second. We do know that when hearing people say "I'll tell you later," they never do. They **NEVER** tell us later. You can bank on it.

4. The shoo-off: Jan is a deaf member of a hearing family. When she sees that someone's on the phone, she wants to know who the other party is. She approaches and asks the speaker, "Who's on the phone?" This isn't being nosy, it's just asking for a bit of information that a hearing person would have access to (since they can hear the intonations of the speaker's voice and catch names and other clues). In a "bad" situation, Jan's sister, brother, or parents give her the shoo-off gesture. Or shrug. Or say "None of your business." Or ignore her. In an "enlightened" situation, the speaker turns to her and says (in speech, fingerspelling, or sign, or even a jotted note), "Margie" or "Grandmother" or "Cousin Stevie" or "Gwen, a friend." Jan is satisfied, nods, and walks off.

How does the scenario play out in *our* families?

The shrug of indifference, the wave of dismissal, the refusal to respond at all, are signs of contempt or (to take a kindlier view) profound laziness. What the shooer-off is saying is *"I'm* not going to bother telling you" or "Go away and don't bother me with your requests to communicate." The underlying message we're getting is: "You're not important enough to communicate with. You're not worth the effort." To a deaf person, that is the ultimate insult. To be dismissed is to be made invisible. A nonperson. Is there anything that infuriates us more? To be considered unworthy of the effort to communicate?

Getting excluded from social interactions and then brushed off is part of the baggage that comes with being deaf in a hearing group. When a company or facility or nonprofit agency discriminates against us, we can protest, complain to the boss, or contact the Office of Civil Rights. But what recourse do we have when the crime is committed in the bosom of our immediate family? Or our circle of friends?

Yes, it takes time and effort to communicate with deaf people. Yes, it's annoying to have to repeat. Yes, it can be a burden having to translate, interpret, and fill in gaps. But if we are to have justice in the world, and a fairer, more accessible society, this is where it starts.

Looking for back issues or complete sets?

Check our Website:
www.deaflife.com
A complete index, availability, and ordering information are included.

Have a question about Deaf people and their culture?...
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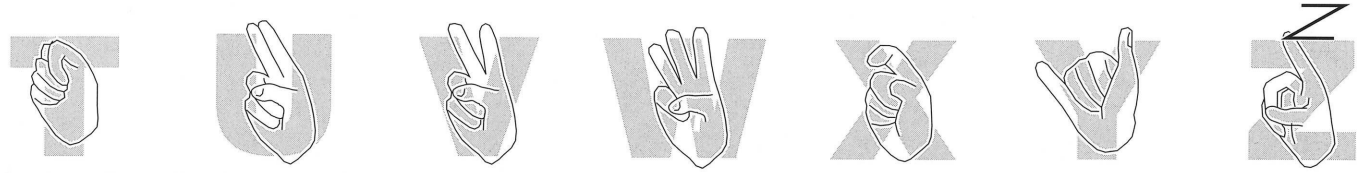
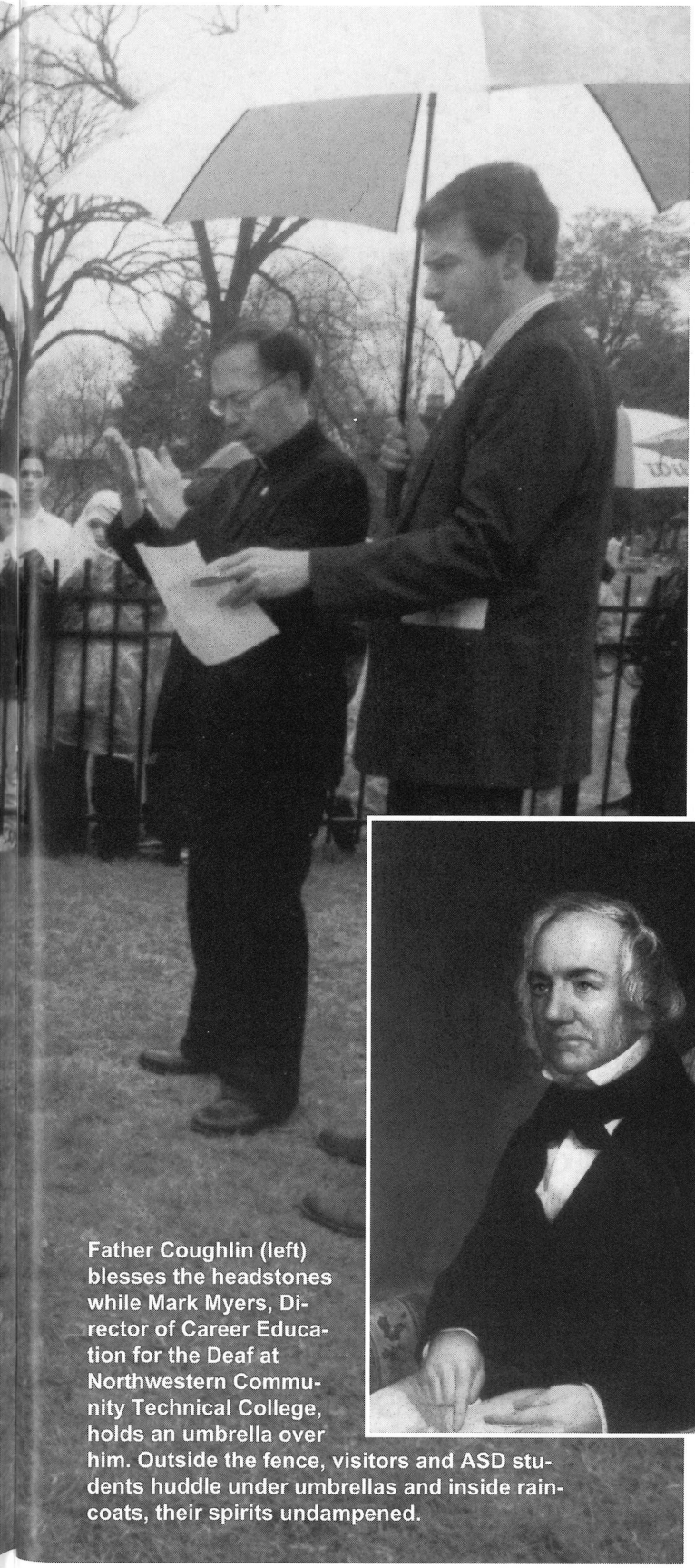


AT LAST, A FITTI

NG MEMORIAL



Father Coughlin (left) blesses the headstones while Mark Myers, Director of Career Education for the Deaf at Northwestern Community Technical College, holds an umbrella over him. Outside the fence, visitors and ASD students huddle under umbrellas and inside raincoats, their spirits undampened.

On April 17, new twin headstones for the gravesites of Laurent Clerc and Eliza Boardman Clerc were dedicated in Hartford, Connecticut. The ceremony marked the culmination of a 6-year fundraising effort to give the Clercs a dignified memorial that reflected the Deaf community's esteem of its greatest hero.

Dr. Martin L.A. Sternberg, author of the monumental ***Dictionary of American Sign Language****, wrote an exclusive account of his visit to Hartford and his exploration of its rich Deaf history.*

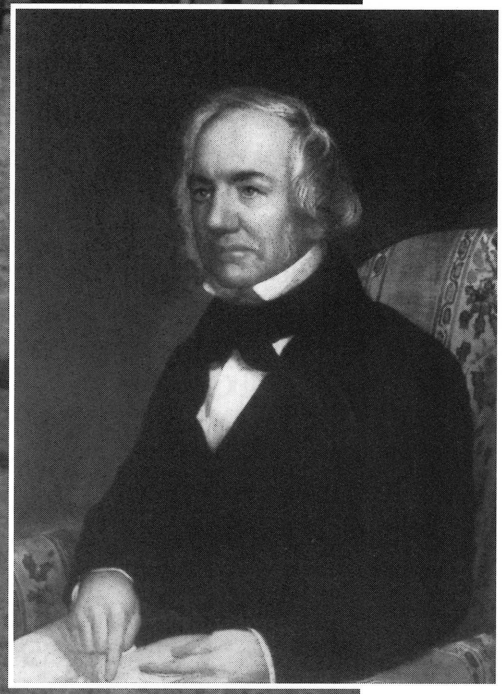
Tony Allicino, former General Manager of New York Deaf Theatre, participated on the Clerc Headstone Committee. He graciously allowed us to reprint his dedication address.

This cover feature is also a tribute to Alan R. Barwiolek (popularly known as AlB or Al B.), who spearheaded the restoration campaign. It shows what one person can accomplish, with dedication, zeal, and a goal. He enlisted the support of many people in the community—schoolchildren, leaders, teachers, grassroots. But he provided the impetus. Had it not been for Al B., the gravesites of the Clercs might still be forgotten, unvisited, all but unfindable, their broken and barely-legible headstones slowly sinking into the earth.

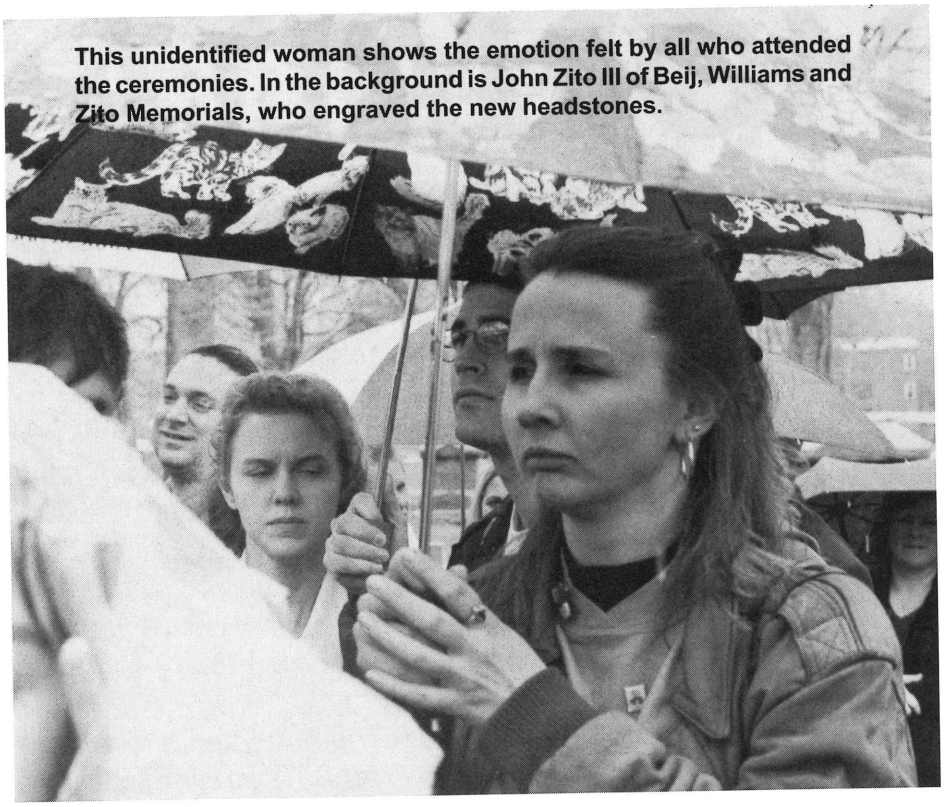
The campaign to restore the Clercs' vandalized and neglected gravesites has succeeded, splendidly. The Cogswell family's gravesite is still in dire need of repair, as are other sites and objects of historical importance to the Deaf community. There is still much to be done, and we hope that the work will continue. So must the task of educating our society about Clerc's pre-eminence as a teacher, mentor, and inspiration to Deaf people in France and the United States. One fitting memorial would be a postage stamp honoring Clerc. Another would be his inclusion in "mainstream" encyclopedias.

What Al B. and a dedicated team began deserves to be carried on. What a beautiful reminder–and a legacy for tomorrow!

—The Editors



Insert: John Carlin's portrait of the elderly Clerc, from life, early 1860s, as published in *Great Deaf Americans: The Second Edition*. (Kentucky School for the Deaf)



This unidentified woman shows the emotion felt by all who attended the ceremonies. In the background is John Zito III of Beij, Williams and Zito Memorials, who engraved the new headstones.

A Day to Remember

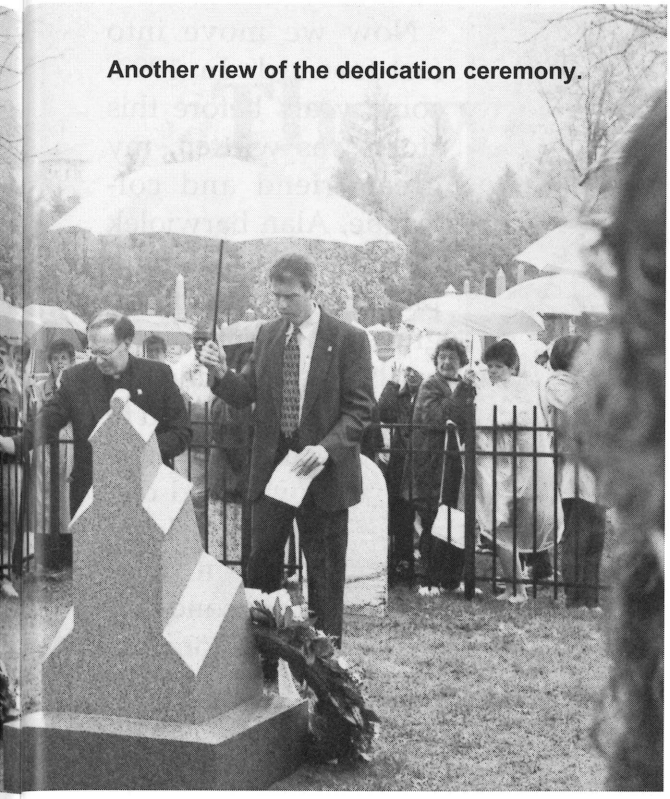
It was just a little while ago, April 17, 1998, a day holding little promise of good weather. The occasion was the dedication of two new headstones at the burial site of Laurent Clerc and his wife, Eliza Boardman Clerc, at Spring Grove Cemetery, Hartford, Connecticut. This meant about a two-hour drive for me and my partner, Joe Firsching, from home base, Forest Hills, New York.

A little background, for those who don't know very much about that fascinating Deaf Frenchman, Laurent Clerc (1785-1859), America's first Deaf teacher of Deaf people.

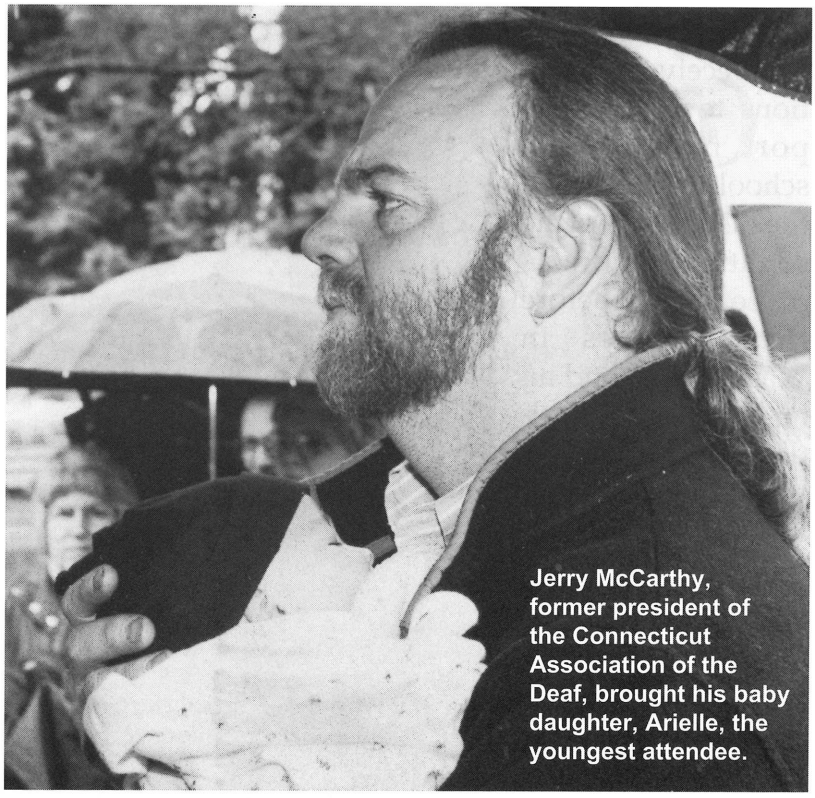
Laurent was born not far from Lyon, in eastern France, in the village of La Balme-les Grottes. Grottoes—the English spelling—were a prominent feature of this town, where his father was the mayor. When he was about a year old, little Laurent fell out of his high chair into the kitchen fireplace, and the story has it that he lost both his hearing and his sense of smell after that fall. More physically visible than a lack of hearing and smell was a laceration on his right cheek that resulted from that fall. Years later the scar from that accident would become his name sign: the index and middle fingers brushing over the right cheek, beginning at the chin.

It took years for an uncle to finally persuade Laurent's sad and protective mother to give him up so that he could attend the Abbé de l'Epée's now-famous Institut National des Sourds-Muets, the world's first permanent school for Deaf children, in Paris. He was 12 when he finally entered school. He did extremely well there, and demonstrated a quick mind and an equally quick wit. L'Epée's successor, Abbé Roch-Ambroise Cucurron Sicard, doted on young Laurent, and upon graduation at age 20 he began a long and illustrious career as a teacher and school head. Ten years later the fates would conspire to bring a major change in Laurent's life.

A young Congregationalist minister from Hartford, Connecticut, Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, hearing, had begun teaching a bright but unschooled little Deaf girl, Alice Cogswell, daughter of an affluent and socially well-connected physician named Mason Fitch Cogswell, who lived very close to Gallaudet in Connecticut's capital The good doctor, impressed by Gallaudet's enthusiasm and drive, offered him a deal. He, Dr. Cogswell, would solicit contributions to help pay for Gallaudet to study abroad and learn the methods of deafness education and then open and run



Another view of the dedication ceremony.



Jerry McCarthy, former president of the Connecticut Association of the Deaf, brought his baby daughter, Arielle, the youngest attendee.

a school for area Deaf children, of whom quite a few had been identified. Deafness education was then nonexistent in America. Gallaudet seized the opportunity, thus beginning a major career change for himself.

He met Abbé Sicard in London, where he was showing off Clerc and a Deaf colleague, Jean Massieu, in front of a rapt audience. Until then, Deaf people were considered almost ineducable, and looking back farther in time we see that they enjoyed no legal rights at law, not even being permitted to marry or sign contracts.

Gallaudet, prior to this fortuitous meeting, had met with one rebuff after another in England and Scotland, in his quest for training. The large Braidwood family controlled deafness education there, and were not keen on sharing their lucrative practice and teaching secrets with outsiders, particularly from America. They were secretly planning to expand their monopoly even to the new world, and thus Gallaudet, in their view, would pose a threat to them.

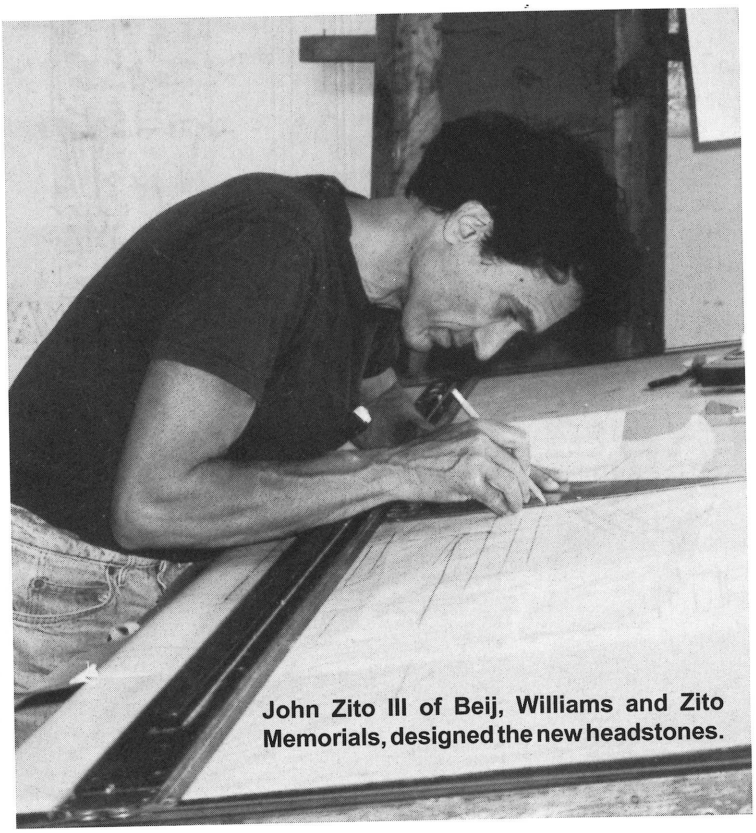
Sicard offered Gallaudet an opportunity to practice-teach at the Paris School, under the tutelage of Laurent Clerc. A strong bond was formed between the two young men, and several months later, when it became time for Gallaudet to return to America, he took Clerc with him.

I would add that all of this happened over the strong objections of Laurent's mother, as well as his boss, Abbé Sicard. The latter, a Catholic clergyman, warned Clerc he would be corrupted by rampant American Protestantism, and lose his chance for a happy afterlife in Heaven. Gallaudet meanwhile was viewed as an ungrateful guest. A humorist friend of mine once likened this exodus from Paris to an honored guest, in this case Gallaudet, who comes to dinner and makes off with the family silver.

The voyage to America took Clerc and Gallaudet 52 days under sail, on board the schooner *Mary Augusta*. There were no Concordes then, nor even 747's. The two men made good use of their time, at least when not seasick: Clerc taught Gallaudet Sign (actually OFSL—Old French Sign Language), and Gallaudet tutored Clerc in English. Both prospered, and in 1817, only a year after returning to America, Gallaudet and Clerc opened the first school for Deaf people, the Connecticut Asylum for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons, a name now mercifully shortened to American School for the Deaf, or, affectionately, "ASD." The name "Asylum" appears on Hartford street signs to this day, a grim reminder of the ignorant and biased days of old.

Clerc, normally shy, proved a surprisingly ef-

fective fundraiser, and received invitations to solicit support for the new school from all over the eastern part of the country, including a presentation before the Congress in Washington, and an audience with President James Monroe, who confessed he had earlier seen Clerc and probably Massieu engaged in animated conversation at a Paris restaurant.



John Zito III of Beij, Williams and Zito Memorials, designed the new headstones.

The sale of a 23,000-acre undeveloped tract of Alabama land, owned by the Government, became a handsome source of support for the fledgling ASD. Other schools soon followed, including the New York School for the Deaf, "Fanwood," founded only a few months after ASD; and various state schools for Deaf children.

OFSL, Old French Sign Language, was the communication medium of choice, and so we can safely say that today's ASL, American Sign Language, is in large part adapted from the French.

But I'm rambling now. Back to Clerc we must go.

In 1819, the highly successful and much-loved Clerc, the acknowledged role model of Deaf America, married Eliza Boardman, also Deaf and a pupil at ASD. They had four children. Interestingly, a Deaf classmate of hers, Sophia Fowler, became the wife of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet. The Gallaudets had many children, four sons and four daughters.

Clerc lived a full and successful life, including almost 50 years of teaching. In 1869, at age 84, he died and was buried in Hartford.

There were hundreds of people at the gravesite, including ASD and Paris pupils, all chatting away in English, ASL, French, OFSL, a veritable United Nations.

Now we move into fast-forward. In 1992, some years before this story was written, my great friend and colleague, Alan Barwiolek ("AlB"), was making a pilgrimage to the Clerc gravesite. Countless others before him, including myself, had failed to find it, such was the state of overgrowth and disrepair. When AlB, luckily, stumbled on it, he gasped in shock and horror. The headstones of both Laurent and Eliza Clerc were nearly obliterated, and had been pushed over by vandals, who had done their dirty deeds at many gravesites of this old cemetery. Also, many of the stones, being made of marble, were subject to the relentless onslaughts of weather, temperature, and humidity. Today marble is not popular in cemeteries; granite has taken its place, as a far superior material.

Meanwhile, at nearby Cedar Hill Cemetery, at a large family plot on a mound overlooking a tranquil lake, was laid out the compound of the Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet family, with a tall polished granite obelisk as centerpiece. The contrast between the two gravesites was striking, and AlB couldn't help but view the difference as symbolic of the eons of repression, indifference, prejudice, and misunderstanding aimed at the Deaf community.

A deeply saddened and angry AlB vowed then and there to do something about the deplorable state of the Clerc gravesite. He spoke to officials of the National Association of the Deaf, and ultimately a Laurent Clerc Dedication Committee was formed, to build new headstones. AlB was named chairman,

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and an ambitious campaign was begun to raise funds for two new Clerc monuments. The American School for the Deaf, which had recently passed its 175th anniversary, played host and helped make April 17, 1998 a happy and joyous occasion for Deaf America. A sad, sad footnote here: poor AlB had died, exactly two years ago, on April 17, 1996. His successor was Sue Pedersen, and he was well represented by his devoted companion, Tony Allicino, who gave a magnificent commemorative address as a highlight of the very wet and joyous event.

The day started at ASD with a breakfast for all, hosted by the school's Executive Director, the affable and immaculately tailored Winfield McChord, Jr. He reminded me that back in 1971 I had been his evaluator on the very first national interpreter-evaluation program, in Memphis, and that I had given him an "A" for his performance. I'm happy to note here that my enthusiasm and confidence in him was well-placed: he signs just beautifully.

I looked around the large breakfast room, greeting old friends and meeting new people. There were about ten people representing the Institut National des Sourds-Muets, people of different ages. The oldest one caught my attention and held it: a 90-year-old gentleman, dressed like a bank president and sporting a silver-tipped cane, and looking mildly bored and uncomfortable. In an effort to be nice, my companion, Joe, offered him a glass of wine. After all, what Frenchman would decline?

He spoke no English, and although Deaf, made little effort to make himself understood through gestures. He did manage, however, to explain he had flown over from Paris to America—on the Concorde! He merely shrugged when I told him how impressed I was. Here we had a member of the French Deaf community, retracing the journey an illustrious compatriot, Clerc, had made

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

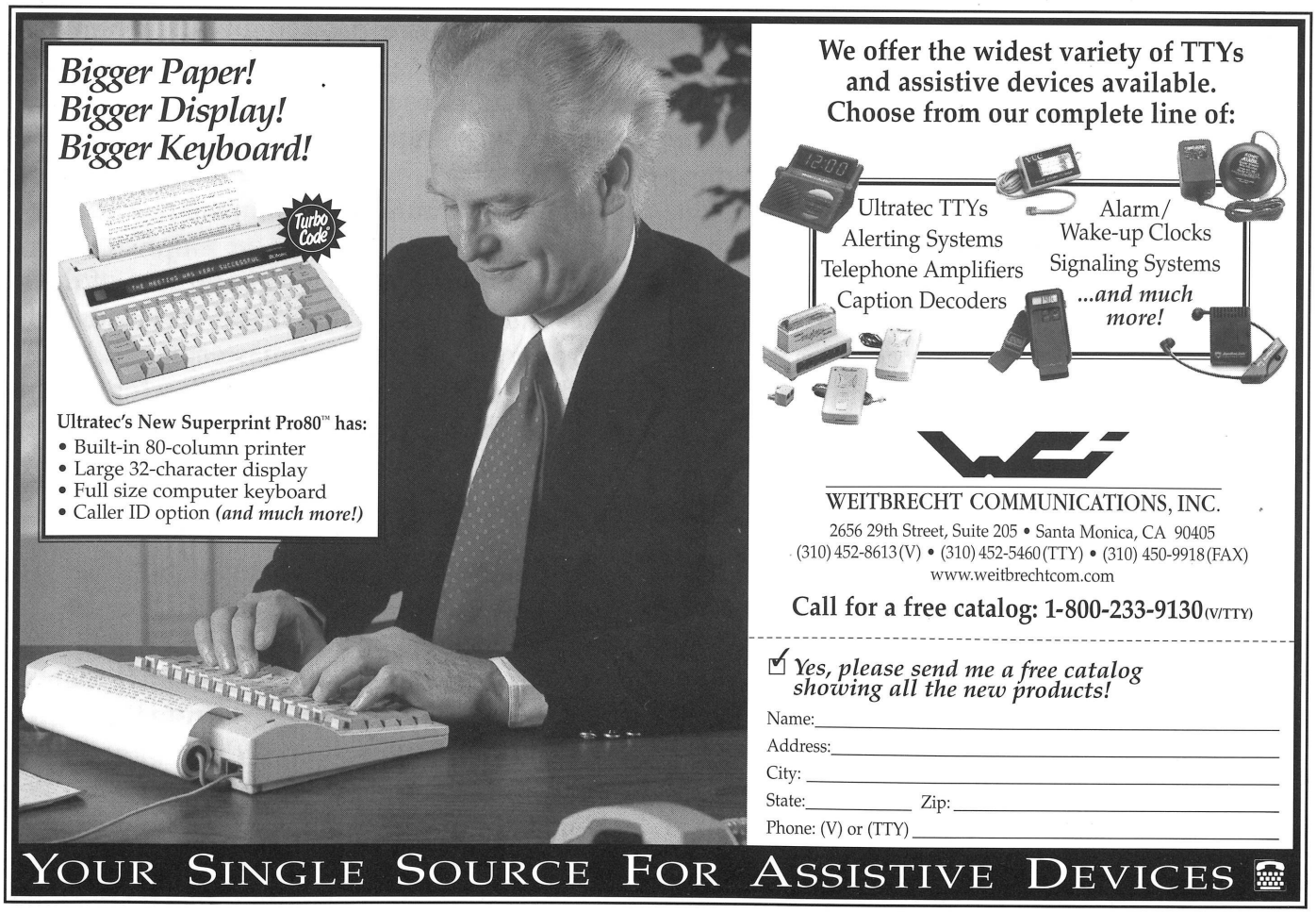
182 years ago, a journey that took 52 days compared with the Concorde's three hours! I was seized with a mind-numbing sense of history.

Breakfast over, we piled into an endless line of school buses for the short journey to Spring Grove Cemetery, a sea of wet grass, mud, and big party tents sagging under the weight of cascading rain. People huddled under umbrellas; interpreters were spaced around throughout the area, with others holding umbrellas over them. There were hundreds of people at the gravesite, including ASD and Paris pupils, all chatting away in English, ASL, French, OFSL, a veritable United Nations. The cemetery director, looking somewhat bewildered by all this rainy-day activity, with buses sloshing around everywhere, tried to make the most of it, realizing it was a real red-letter day for a certain group of people.

The two new headstones were most impressive, a combination of rough and polished gray granite, designed and erected by Beij, Williams and Zito Monuments, well-known Hartford specialists in memorial restorations, in business since 1873. A most unusual design, the stones lean backwards over their bases, almost as if they were being pushed over. They look like flying buttresses, architectural features found in many Gothic cathedrals. I've never seen such a design before, and it is very, very pleasing aesthetically.

It was hard to move around, what with all the people, the large umbrellas, the wet and dripping tents. The two gravestones are now enclosed in a wrought-iron fenced compound, not only to discourage further vandalism but also to make it much easier to locate the gravesite itself. Several French visitors came attired in the style of Clerc's time. Indeed, a descendant of Laurent Clerc, Sue Galloway, was a proud and happy visitor.

The ceremony over, we got back into the buses for the ride to the Connecticut Historical Society, for a visit and luncheon, sponsored by the Connecticut Relay Service. This in turn was followed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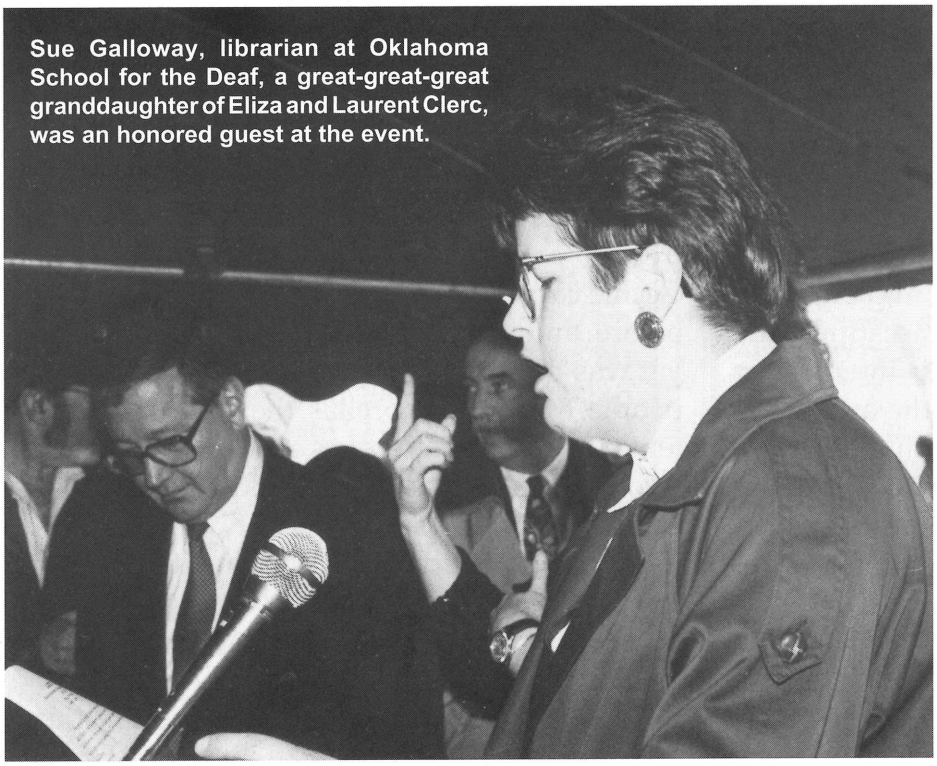
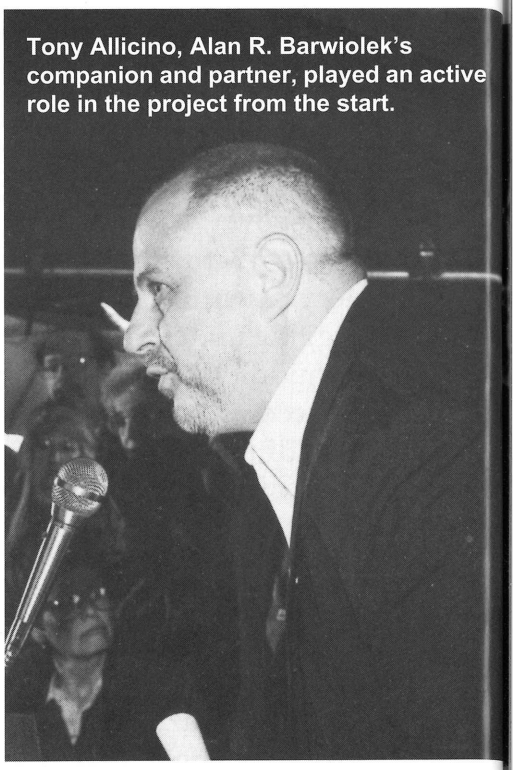


Sue Galloway, librarian at Oklahoma School for the Deaf, a great-great-great granddaughter of Eliza and Laurent Clerc, was an honored guest at the event.



Tony Allicino, Alan R. Barwiolek's companion and partner, played an active role in the project from the start.

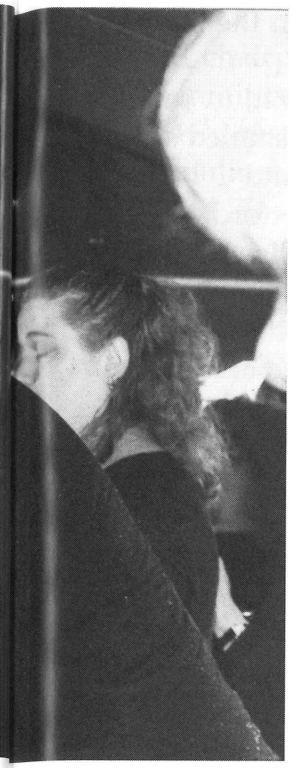
by an historical tour of Hartford, and we were amazed at the memorials and markers in honor of Clerc and Gallaudet. Even the center island of a busy traffic intersection has a memorial to Alice Cogswell, Dr. Cogswell's daughter, who was the beginning of it all.

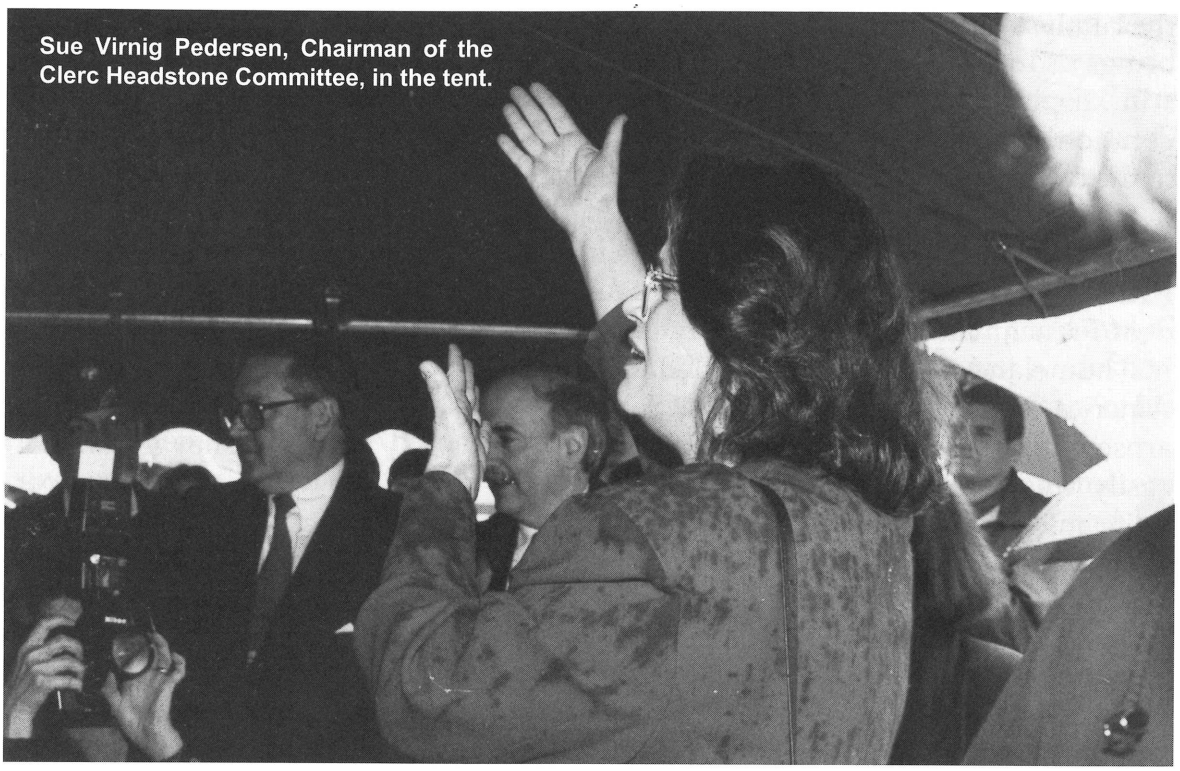
By now it was well into the afternoon, and some of us were feeling tired. But the best and most interesting part (at least to me) was yet to begin. Oh yes, I was delighted to see my old friends and former pupils, Alice Hagemeyer, Jack Gannon, and Gil Eastman, and I was also pleased to say hello to Peggie Parsons, the famous Deaf traveler, who was accompanied by her little black dog. I had long looked forward to meeting the NAD's Nancy Bloch, and I had a wonderful opportunity to chat with her.

We took a remarkably enlightening tour of ASD, hosted by Winfield McChord, who very kindly gave me more personal attention than I deserved. In the archives room, I saw Sophia Fowler Gallaudet's immaculately preserved white wedding gown and slippers, hung up in transparent dry-cleaner's bags. Letters, notes, school records, and innumerable historical documents were laid out in glass cases, and would require a week to study adequately.

Win McChord then showed me two oil portraits, without a doubt the most important holdings of ASD. About two-and-a-half feet square, they portray Laurent Clerc and Eliza Boardman Clerc. They were painted by Charles Willson Peale, one of the greatest of early American portrait artists, who painted, live, more portraits of George Washington than any other artist of his day. His work hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, among other major American museums.

I noted the rather shabby condition of the pictures, and Win explained the very sad history surrounding these two masterpieces. His two predecessors in the executive director's chair at ASD had been at odds on a number of occasions, and finally, perhaps as an act of spite, the two pictures were hidden away in an obscure locked closet, surrounded by high humidity and mold. One was placed directly on top of the other. Thus they languished for something like eight years, forgotten; the closet not even known about, until Win, his curiosity piqued, uncovered them. He had them examined by experts from the Hartford Museum, who pronounced them of great value historically and aesthetically, even in spite of their shabby condition. Win tells me he plans to have them restored, and most importantly, he hopes a campaign will be mounted before long to





Sue Virnig Pedersen, Chairman of the Clerc Headstone Committee, in the tent.

provide a more congenial home and arrest the deterioration of the archives and art. I can think of no better project to commemorate and honor ASD's role as the birthplace of education of America's Deaf people. AlB, if he were alive today, would be solidly behind a project of this type.

The long and eventful day ended with a lovely banquet in the ASD gym, at which Win McChord did himself proud. The food was excellent and the speakers were good and mercifully brief. Among the luminaries in attendance at the gravesite or at meals were Gérard Garcia, president of the Laurent Clerc Association of Lyon, France; and Yvette and Armand Pelletier, secretary and president, respectively, of Culture et Langue de Signes de Ferdinand Berthier of Louhans, France.

I slept all the way home in the car, dreaming about Laurent Clerc, polishing granite monuments, and happy people who were not queasy about visiting the site of history and triumphs.

—Martin L. A. Sternberg

■

The new granite headstones were most impressive, and of a most unusual but pleasing design—they look like Gothic flying buttresses.

■

The Road To Spring Grove Cemetery

On April 17, 1998 the new Laurent Clerc and Eliza Boardman Clerc headstones will be unveiled. For Alan R. Barwiolek, my companion until his death in 1996, and founder of the National Association of the Deaf's Laurent Clerc Headstone Restoration Committee, this day will symbolize his life, its mission and work as a member of America's Deaf community. For me it will be the culmination of a six-year journey whose events I remember as if they happened yesterday.

It was late one evening back in April of 1992 when Alan returned home to New York City after a long, tiring, and exhilarating day trip to the 175th Anniversary Celebration of the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, CT. It was also day filled with conflicting emotions. He felt a great sense of history and pride participating in this event and, at the same time, was bothered with a tremendous disappointment that would become

the catalyst for positive action that now brings us together this day.

In keeping with the spirit of the celebration, Alan wished to pay his respects to the two men credited with the founding of the American School for the Deaf, the Rev. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, a native of Hartford, and Laurent Clerc, a deaf Frenchman who permanently left his homeland in 1817 and settled in America. Alan's disappointment that day arose with the realization that he could easily find the Gallaudet family plot, quite magnificent, in Cedar Hill Cemetery, but was not able to locate the Clerc family plot, modest in comparison, in Spring Grove Cemetery. He searched long and hard and couldn't find it. For Alan, a man born deaf to deaf parents, this represented how oftentimes deaf people have been traditionally overlooked and marginalized.

That Alan was unable to find the Clerc grave, which for him had become synonymous with America's Deaf community, was unacceptable. And the experience was in sharp contrast to the one he had one year earlier in France. In May of 1991, during his second visit to Paris as a performing artist with CHALB Productions, he took a day trip to La Balme, a small town near Lyon, to visit Laurent Clerc's birthplace. There he easily found the house in which Clerc was born because it was clearly, properly, and respectfully marked with a commemorative plaque. To Alan, that was exactly how it should be for such an important person and place in Deaf History.

Memories of this positive experience in La Balme fueled Alan's frustration in finding Clerc's grave site in Hartford. He was haunted by the questions: Why was it so difficult to find the grave of the man who created the educational system for the Deaf in America and who was so instrumental in shaping American Sign Language? Was it too much to expect the same respect shown to Clerc's final resting place as was shown in the town he was born?

Alan knew that it was his destiny to do all that he could to help move Clerc out from behind the shadow of Gallaudet and bring honor and recognition to this humble, noble man whose life and work had the greatest, most profound, and lasting effect on every American who was Deaf. He was determined to restore honor and dignity befitting Clerc's final resting place.

As destiny would have it, in June of 1992, two months after his failed search in Spring Grove, Alan and I had the opportunity to stop in Hartford while en route to visit friends in Massachusetts. Our sole purpose for being there was to join forces in locating Clerc's grave. Alan directed me to look in the area he had covered the previous April while he explored new ground. It was not long after we went on our separate searches that I saw his arm waving and heard his enthusiastic cry "I found it!"

Upon seeing Laurent and Eliza Clerc's headstones, Alan's heart sank. We knew immediately why finding them had been so difficult. They had been knocked off of their bases and now stood propped up against them, slowly sinking into the ground, obscuring names and lettering. Time and weather had also taken their tolls on the stones, fading what once was legible. They had been neglected and forgotten. With this realization on this June day, the spark of April's indignation became the flame of a passion to correct a wrong. And Alan knew that it was his destiny to do all that he could to help move Clerc out from behind the shadow of Gallaudet and bring honor and recognition to this humble, noble man whose life and work had the greatest, most profound, and lasting effect on every American who was Deaf. Alan was determined to restore honor and dignity befitting Clerc's final resting place.

A few weeks later, during the NAD Convention in Denver, Colorado, on July 2, 1992 at 9:10 a.m., Alan wrote a resolution requesting that the NAD "take responsibility" for the restoration of Laurent Clerc's and his family's gravesites. His resolution, Bill #108, came to the General Assembly floor for a vote at 9:45 a.m. and was unanimously passed. Now there was work to be done.

The NAD created a committee and Alan was named chairperson. He recruited members for his committee and began a plan of action. Requests for restoration proposals were sent to the Deaf community around the country. Beij, Williams and Zito Memorials, of Hartford, Connecticut, specialists in memorial restorations since 1873, were chosen for the project. At the 1994 NAD Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee, Alan formally asked the NAD Executive Board for their support. The restoration project's budget was approved. Under the auspices of the NAD, a national fund-raising campaign was launched and, during the course of four years, the funds necessary to implement the resolution were raised with donations pledged primarily from many individual contributors.

Upon Alan's death in April 1996, Sue Pedersen, a member of the national committee who worked closely with him, and a resident of West Hartford, was named the committee's new chairperson to carry the project forward. The committee was expanded to include residents from the Hartford area who would organize the Unveiling Ceremony scheduled for late June 1997. As fate would have it, the 1997 unveiling had to be canceled due to a delay in the completion of the new headstones. A new date had to be set.

When Sue told me the new date for the unveiling, chills washed over me and I smiled. For Alan's dream, the project that was nurtured by his passionate commitment in both good and ill health, would become a reality, just as destiny would have it be, on the second anniversary of his death—April 17, 1998.

And so, as we stand in Spring Grove Cemetery this April 17th to honor Laurent Clerc and his wife, Eliza, with the unveiling of these new headstones, we should remember the many journeys undertaken to arrive at this moment. And of what can be accomplished when we follow our hearts and destiny, doing what we truly believe: whether it be sailing to America to help start a school for the Deaf or turning a disappointing incident into a living monument of a community's pride. While on this day we honor a great native Frenchman

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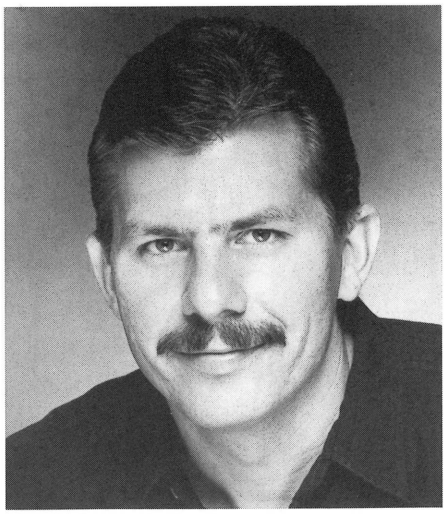
The new headstones for Laurent and Eliza Boardman Clerc reproduce the simple inscriptions and attractive Victorian-Gothic design of the original twin marble headstones, but are made of sturdy granite in a modern, vandalism-resistant format. The inscriptions are: LAURENT CLERC/BORN/DECEMBER 26, 1785/DIED/JULY 18, 1969, and ELIZA CLERC/BORN/AUGUST 22, 1792/DIED/MAY 17, 1881.

and adopted American, Laurent Clerc, we will also be honoring the unbroken line of every person, Deaf and Hearing, American or French, who reaped the benefit of his enterprising work in the fields of education and language. No, we will not be standing alone in Spring Grove Cemetery on April 17th. Our numbers will be multiplied by the hundreds of thousands, for we will be surrounded by the hopes and dreams of each and every cultural ancestor to the Deaf community that has come before us and guided us to this place. And, this line, this great moment in the history of the Deaf community, will be carried forward by us to guide the way for all the hopes and dreams yet to be realized.

—Tony Allicino

✏ This tribute was published in the Laurent Clerc Dedication program book, and is used here by Mr. Allicino's permission.



We salute
Alan R. Barwiolek (Al B.)
for spearheading the
Clerc Headstone Restoration
campaign. His vision inspires us all,
and his unfinished work continues.

Deaf Life **Photographs courtesy of Tony Allicino, Sue Pedersen, and Martin L.A. Sternberg. Our thanks to those who sent us photos and materials, and to Nancy J. Bloch, Anita J. Farb, and Michele Listisard.**

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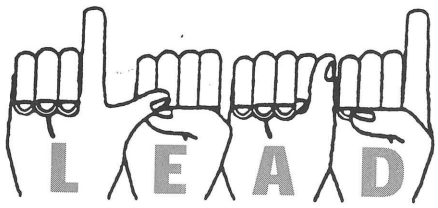
Midwest  **Institute**

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Peggie's Cove: Here and There

Field Notes

Peggie Parsons has volunteered to contribute a variety of lengthy and brief writings—comments on her global experiences, courageous challenges and responses from DOH (deaf children of hearing parents) and DOD (deaf children of deaf parents), deaf adults' successful accomplishments that stemmed from their early communication and reading, national and international stories about the deaf, hearing people dedicated to education and welfare of the deaf, *etcetera*.

There are 3% hereditarily deaf, 3% having one hearing and one deaf parent, 40% DOH who were born deaf to hearing parents, and the rest of DOH who lost their hearing after 8 months of age. (I am not referring to prelingually and postlingually deaf, but emphasizing that their minds are stimulated prior to their hearing loss.)

Linguists, sign researchers, and specialists in deaf bilingual education concentrate on DOD and their ultimate successes. Most DOH who use English as their first language have been downplayed, ignored, or held in contempt. It is time to "hear them out"—both on their own behalf, and that of their hearing parents.

On the Gallaudet University campus at the start of the drive to Hartford. Left to right: Yvette Pelletier, Jean Pigot, Paul Pomel, Bernard Pelletier, Peggie Parsons and Rubette, Georges Caparros, Gérard Garcia, and Bernard Daneluzzi. In the background: Ole Jim (Peikoff Alumni House) at left and the Kellogg Conference Center.

The Adventures of the French Seven

On April 11, six Frenchmen and one Frenchwoman arrived at Dulles Airport for an 11-day sojourn. Their goals: to visit the NAD in Silver Spring, NTID in Rochester, and attend the unveiling of the new Clerc headstones in Hartford.

France had helped the American colonists during the Revolution, and the United States helped France during World War II. Clerc brought the candle of sign language to America, where it burned steadily during the years of turmoil between the warring factions of signing and pure oralism. Clerc was forgotten in his homeland until a few years ago, when he was "rediscovered" and re-appreciated by the local French deaf.

In 1994, I visited La Balme, where I saw a fabulous play written and performed by those French about the life of Clerc (***La Vie de Laurent Clerc***—see the December 1995 issue of **Deaf Life**.) The French version of Clerc's life was quite different from the American versions. It concentrated on Clerc's early experiences until the day he decided to sail to the States. Members of the Cloux family—three children and their father—played Clerc as a very young boy being encouraged to read books by his family, as a school pupil, and as a

young man. Gérard Garcia, playing the elderly Clerc, concluded the play—and Clerc's life story—when he held out and gazed at the watch that had been presented to him years ago by his beloved teacher, Jean Massieu. All memories had come full circle to the conclusion, as Garcia's Clerc bowed his head and closed his hand over the watch.

Sister Michèle Bonnot, then president of *L'association Laurent Clerc*, the highly-honored regional-history society of the deaf, based in Lyon, had spread awareness about Clerc among her students in middle and southern France, and had visited Clerc's gravesite in Hartford several years ago. She was succeeded as president of the Clerc Association by Garcia. He had grown so attached to Clerc as a French-American, teacher, and friend, that he felt the need of paying a special tribute to his hero. He performed not only in the play in La Balme, but on several other public occasions.

With Sue Pedersen chairing the NAD's Clerc Headstone Committee, and with Superintendent Winfield McChord's cooperation, ASD co-sponsored the unveiling and dedication of Clerc's new headstones, and coordinated the day program. On April 17, a reception was held under the tent next to Clerc's gravesite. It was raining hard. Sue Pedersen lightened up the dreary weather by assuring us that Clerc was weeping with joy for our remembering him. Garcia presented a talk with Sue Galloway, Clerc's descendant, standing next to him. He had brought a cleverly tailored early-19th-century-style suit from France, so he wore Clerc's style throughout the dedication, all-day visit to ASD, and at the banquet. The French visitors were thrilled to see the priceless collections of Clerc memorabilia, manuscripts, and records at the Gallaudet Archives, ASD's Clerc-Gallaudet Historical Room, and Yale University.

Garcia came with others who were also eager to pay their respects to Clerc and to meet with Nancy Bloch, NAD Executive Director. Washington was their first stopover. These other French visitors were Armand Pelletier, President of *Culture et Langue de Signes de Ferdinand Berthier*, and his charming wife, Yvette, the secretary of this association; Jean Pigot, retired; Bernard Daneluzzi, sign-language teacher and teacher trainer; Paul Pomel, retired; and Georges Caparros, an industrial-maintenance worker.

The French visitors were thrilled to see the priceless Clerc collections at the Gallaudet Archives, ASD, and Yale University. They went wild over the statue of the Abbé de l'Epée at St. Mary's School in Buffalo.

Patrick Seamans of Los Angeles had E-mailed several of us to ask if we would be so kind as to prepare the visit of the French Seven. Thanks to the miraculous speed of E-mail, plans swiftly materialized in Washington, Maryland, Virginia, and New York. Those who generously participated in the French visitors' stopovers were Nancy Bloch, Alice L. Hagemeyer of the Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action (FOLDA), Dr. Mark Weinberg and Buck Rogers of Gallaudet's Foreign Language Department, Dr. Simon J. Carmel and Dr. Robert R. Davila of NTID, Sue Pedersen and Superintendent McChord of ASD, Patrick Seamans, who flew in from California to assist as a guide for the duration, and Lois and Paul Tamiso, who hosted them in New York City, during the last lap of their visit.

When I was asked to meet the French Seven at Dulles on April 11, I was under the impression it would take about two hours to welcome them, guide them to Hertz Rent-A-Car, and then accompany them to Washington, with a two-hour church service the following morning. What I didn't realize was how fortunate we English-speaking tourists have been, going to Europe where English-speaking Europeans could assist us with maps, trains, planes, hotels, hostels, restaurants, car rentals, etcetera. There is no such service anywhere in the U.S.A. to assist French-speaking or other foreign visi-

tors, especially the deaf.

The French Seven experienced their first confrontation with the multiple-language barrier at Hertz when they tried to rent a minivan. They asked me to help with interpreting and it stretched to nearly two hours! They learned, to their horror, that if they dropped off the van at Kennedy Airport, they would be charged $300! They asked if they could pay my one-way trainfare to Hartford so I could drop them off in New York City and return the van to Hertz in Dulles. That meant my canceling my drive in my car to Hartford. From the time I arrived at Dulles and guided them to Gallaudet University, it took a good seven hours!

The same thing happened on Sunday: two hours stretched to eight. I sympathized with their plight: not knowing where to go or what to sightsee. So after driving their rented minibus to NAD headquarters on Monday, and while driving back, I began to wonder how they could cope with traveling through the northern states, and no AAA maps to guide them! I idly asked if they would like for me to help lead them, assisting with interpreting and showing them points of interest throughout their sojourn. All nodded eagerly. So on the following day, I tossed in my duffel bag and sallied forth with them.

After visiting NAD, they were invited to observe Buck Rogers teaching French at Gallaudet, and then treated to a fabulous luncheon by Dr. Weinberg. Ulf Hedberg and Mike Olson of the Archives were unfortunately not there, but, much to the visitors' delight, they had left some information about Clerc for them. Alice Hagemeyer took over for the rest of the day by inviting them to the Arlington County Central Library. She managed to get two interpreters: Mark Leitson, who did trilingual, and Buck Rogers, quadrilingual.

Gérard Garcia, President of the Laurent Clerc Association of Lyon, France, in his elegant early-19th-century-style suit, poses with the new headstones. (They're splattered with rain.)

Dr. Carmel planned a rendezvous between the French Seven and Dr. Davila. They were astonished when they learned that he, the Director of NTID, was *deaf!* Dr. Davila did his best to communicate clearly. He used sim-com in English, slowly and precisely, with a few international signs. They were able to follow what he said. When one complained about how badly France disregards the French deaf, he recalled his visit to New Zealand. Want-

Vive America! Vive France! Vive Clerc! **The French Seven hold flags of friendship. Left to right: Yvette Pelletier, Bernard Daneluzzi, Gérard Garcia, Bernard Pelletier, Georges Caparros, Paul Pomel, and Jean Pigot.**

ing to be a good ambassador, he had practiced the two-handed ("British") alphabet during his flight there. Upon arrival, he tried communicating in *their* fingerspelling. To his dismay, they acted like zombies or didn't seem to know what he was saying. They spoke orally. Once they got into a limousine, they suddenly fingerspelled and gestured fluently, much to Bob's surprise. They explained they were ashamed to be seen with their signing in public. Bob emphatically told them to be proud of themselves and their language. In a short time, all deaf New Zealanders were proudly showing off their dancing fingers and flying hands! So he assured the French Seven not to give up but keep forging ahead.

One of the highlights that thrilled them most was the statue of the Abbé de l'Epée at St. Mary's School in Buffalo. They spent half-an-hour taking pictures or using camcorders, risking their safety by standing on the street with cars veering around them! The next step was a visit to Niagara Falls. The Canadian immigration officers were friendly, but upon return to U.S.A., we were confronted by a growling INS officer who commanded us to pull over and go into the Department of Immigration . . . just because two of them left behind the blue slips that were supposed to be clipped inside their passports!

Rubette, my guide dog and veteran fellow traveler, accompanied us. Gingerly, she tested each of our visitors' laps. She reminded me of Goldilocks trying to find a bed that was "just right." She finally curled up on her favorite three. All doted on her.

Pat Seamans, whose mother was French, grew up in France until moving to the U.S. at age 12 with his American father. So besides the program at ASD, Pat volunteered to show them around Hartford, including the site of the old school, the Gallaudets' gravesites, statues of Alice Cogswell and others, Yale University's small but choice collection of Clerc manuscripts, and ASD's Clerc-Gallaudet Historical Room, chock-full of pictures, stories, journals, manuscripts, etc. He took them on side trips to Mystic and Stonington.

The French Seven's last stopover was in New York City, where Lois and Paul Tamiso took them under their wings. They jam-packed two days of sightseeing the most famous landmarks, and visiting schools—St. Joseph's in Bronx and Lexington in Queens. They took the French Seven to a good Italian restaurant before seeing them safely off at Kennedy Airport. Alice Hagemeyer accompanied me back to Maryland, and by the time I dropped off the minibus at Dulles Hertz, I was more dead than alive!

Clerc: He came. He saw. He conquered.

The French Seven: They came. They saw. They revered.

—Peggie Parsons

Editors' note: Rubette, Peggie Parsons' companion, guardian, and fellow traveler, died in early August. She was an endearing little character who, despite her tiny size, was a force to be reckoned with. Rubette was much more than just "a dog." She saved Parsons' life at least once, leaping to attack a mugger. She will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure of her acquaintance.

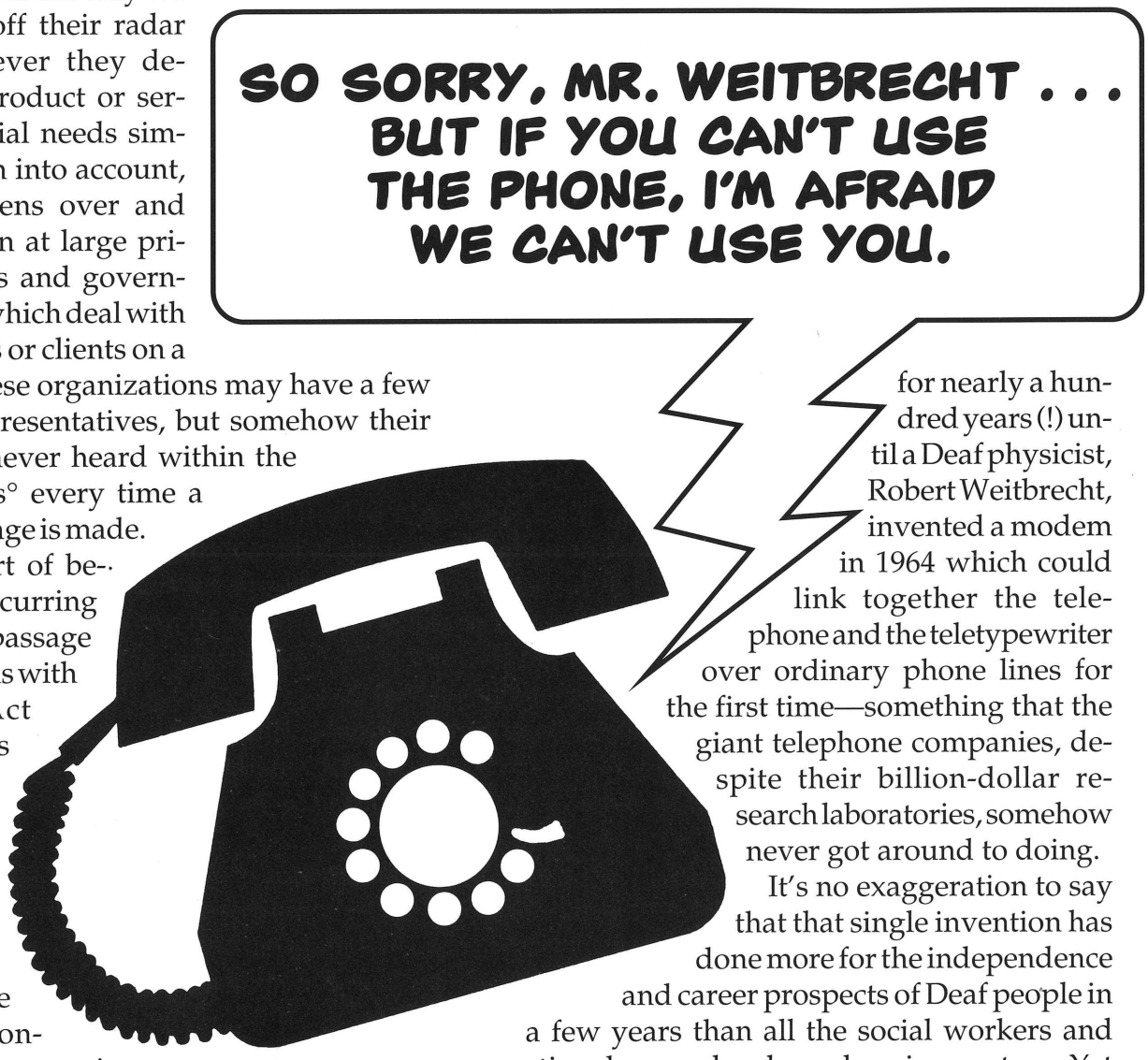
Up Periscope!

ASK NOT FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS°

One of the constant aggravations that Deaf people must deal with in a world run by and for Hearing people is the way we so easily slip off their radar screens whenever they develop a new product or service—our special needs simply aren't taken into account, and this happens over and over again even at large private companies and government bureaus which deal with Deaf customers or clients on a daily basis. These organizations may have a few token Deaf representatives, but somehow their messages are never heard within the upper echelons° every time a significant change is made.

Since this sort of behavior keeps recurring even with the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws intended to ensure equal treatment for Deaf people, the only possible conclusion is that the people who control those large organizations subconsciously want to shut us out of their sight and mind. So we can never take anything they may say, no matter how reassuring their words, for granted.

A prime example of this is the telephone, which was invented in 1876 by a speech teacher, ostensibly to help teach speech to his hard-of-hearing pupils. We didn't get another kind of telephone which could transmit printed words as easily as a typewriter (also invented around the same time)



for nearly a hundred years (!) until a Deaf physicist, Robert Weitbrecht, invented a modem in 1964 which could link together the telephone and the teletypewriter over ordinary phone lines for the first time—something that the giant telephone companies, despite their billion-dollar research laboratories, somehow never got around to doing.

It's no exaggeration to say that that single invention has done more for the independence and career prospects of Deaf people in a few years than all the social workers and vocational counselors have done in a century. Yet far too many Deaf people enter social work instead of engineering, chemistry, and other physical sciences, even at ostensibly technical schools like NTID.

The news media often report important discoveries made by scientists or path-breaking devices invented by engineers working at various universities from all over the country. The April 1998

issue of **Wired Magazine** has an interesting article about computer "wearables," and casually mentions that the cofounder of MIT's Wearable Computing Project, Thad Starner, working with Josh Weaver and their faculty adviser, Alex Pentland, has built a computer system "that uses a camera mounted on the brim of a baseball cap to help translate the hand signals of American Sign Language into spoken English." There's no further information, so I don't know how viable that system is or its error rate. But it's an intriguing project, and I can't remember even one significant discovery or device reported in the newspapers that was made by people working at NTID.

We've been told over and over again that NTID's mission is to increase career opportunities for Deaf people, so how come the college's professors haven't come up with a full-motion, real-time videophone that can be used over ordinary telephone lines, or a computer that understands sign language, or any other scientific or technological breakthrough as momentous as Robert Weitbrecht's invention nearly 35 years ago?

—by **PROTO-X**

I can't remember even one significant discovery or device reported in the newspapers that was made by people working at NTID.

"Ask not for whom the bell tolls:" a line from John Donne's famous essay on empathy, community, and the interconnectedness of humankind. It begins: "No man is an island, entire of itself. . ." and ends, "Therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." The original reference is to the old English custom of ringing (tolling) the bells of the parish church whenever a member of the community died. The bells would ring once or twice to indicate whether the dead person was a man or woman, then ring a certain number of times to indicate that person's age. The phrase "for whom the bell tolls" was borrowed by Ernest Hemingway as the title of one of his best-known books. It is used ironically here.

echelons (noun, plural) rows, ranks. I.e., top executives; leadership.

France's other great gift to the United States.

We are grateful to France for giving the Statue of Liberty to the United States. But the U.S. Deaf Community has an additional cause for gratitude: Laurent Clerc, the brilliant Deaf teacher who left a comfortable post at the National Institute in Paris to help found the first school for the deaf in the States. It was a gamble, but it paid off gloriously. Clerc is revered as the first teacher of the deaf in the New World, and a founder of the American Deaf Community. Read about his life and achievements in

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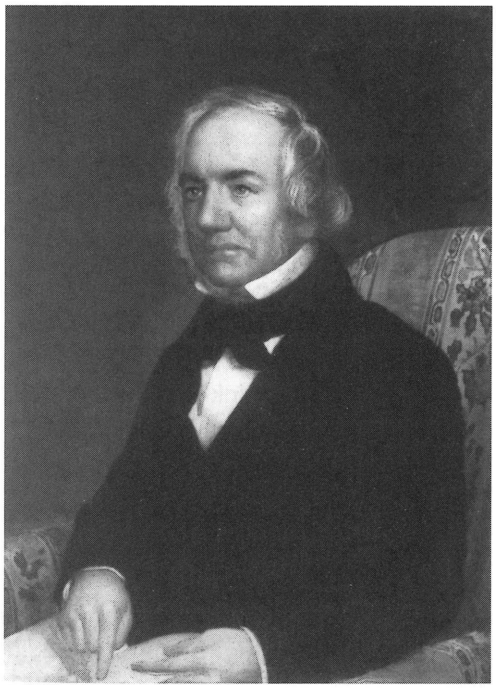

Laurent Clerc

DeafView

READERS' RESPONSES

Do deaf people worry too much about what hearing people think of them?

35% Yes 34% No 31% Not sure

NOT SURE—It depends on their self-esteem. If they are young and in mainstream program they may worry about what their hearing peers and neighbors think of them. But if they are in Deaf school and have good self-esteem they will more likely not care what hearing people think of them.

As Deaf people gets older, they are more likely not care what hearing people think of them because they have realized that there is nothing they can do to make hearing people accept their deafness and started to think of themselves and accept their own deafness.

I used to worry what hearing people think of me and tried to be better than most Deaf people but as I got older and more wiser I realized I was wasting more time worry about what hearing people think of me and it was hurting my self-esteem. I think I grew up around the age of 29 and accept there is nothing I can do to please hearing people and start to think of myself as a deaf person who can do anything and now I am an assistant professor at a University and use full time interpreter.

YES—This issue still have to be researched and verified. However, some deaf people do feel that way and be experiencing inferiority and may not have a chance to mingle with hearing people. Some hearing people do show a lot of fear when confronting deaf people and thinking that they are not worth mingling with. At times, deaf people will have to prove themselves that they are capable of mingling with them by using other methods of communications or perhaps to make hearing people become interested with the usage of sign language. Sometimes, writing on a piece of paper back and forth with hearing people can be a frustrating experience for some deaf people. Deaf people were hoping that hearing people will for sure have the open-mindedness to learn our culture and be able to have the patient to sign or using appropriate gestures to us. For your information, I applauded the fact that there is a growing trend of Bi-Bi programs in some parts of the world.

NO—Most of the time a deaf person's worries are justified. I have seen many rude and insulting things done to a deaf person behind their back. I am very Hard of Hearing (considered deaf by some) but I can hear some of what is said if I am close enough. I have also heard some of the most incredible insults about deaf people made by hearing people. This does not mean all hearing people are rude or insulting but it it happens often enough it will make anyone just a little uneasy about all hearing people.

I myself have been the subject of many rude and insulting things from hearing people. My own family often says some very rude things and I can't seem to say anything to change how they think. I guess all we can do is try our best to teach people we are not what they think and hope someday they will change for the better.

NO—Why, should I?

NO—I don't think so. The hearing world finds Deaf culture and the Deaf experience fascinating.

NOT SURE—Concerning your question, I am not sure if they do. Every person is an individual regardless of being deaf or not. If for one day I was deaf, I will worry a little bit if people are talking about me.

YES—Most Deaf people, including me worry too much about what hearing people think of us because they are the majority and they rule us.

Readers have asked us how many "DeafView" responses we get every month.

This month's total: 420

DeafView

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Do the FDA and the medical profession care what Deaf people think about cochlear and auditory-brainstem implants?

❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not sure

Comments: _____

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Please respond promptly so that we can publish the results in the October issue.

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AUGUST 1998

Deaflife PLUS

• RELEASES • ANNOUNCEMENTS • UPCOMING EVENTS • LATE-BREAKING NEWS •

A NEW MARTHA'S VINEYARD —IN THE JUNGLE!

This is taken from ***The Herald Sun****, Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, June 27 (original source:* ***London Daily Mail****).*

Explorers in Indonesia's remote Irian Jaya jungle have discovered two Stone Age tribes who communicate only through sign language.

Scientists believe the contact with the two primitive clans could be one of the discoveries of modern times because it is believed they have had no contact with the outside world.

A group of Indonesian government officials were exploring the Mamberamo River area in the Northern Highlands of New Guinea when they saw two naked men making hurried gestures to each other. What held the group's attention was their complex sign language.

Field officers from Jayapura, the capital of Irian Jaya, managed to make contact and discovered that the two tribes are known as the Vahudate, consisting of 20 families, and the Aukedate, which has 33 families. The tribes, who are taller and darker than most tribespeople of the area, appear to have no idea they are not alone.

Onesimukus Y Ramendey, head of the office of social welfare in the province, said: "We are still trying to establish, for example, whether they have ever seen anyone wearing a shirt or any kind of manufactured clothes . . . Although they make sounds, they talk to each other mainly through sign language and so far it has been impossible to understand it. . . . I wonder if it couldn't be left over from some earlier time when they communicated silently so as not to alert their enemies to their presence." Officials were waiting for a full description of the tribes' way of life.

IN MEMORIAM
DONNA McCORD DICKMAN
"A GREAT AND INSPIRATIONAL LEADER"

Donna McCord Dickman, Executive Director of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf, died on June 1 at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C., from complications related to gallbladder cancer. She had been ill for some time and was hospitalized for several weeks before her death. She is survived by her husband, Neil, and her son, Eric.

Dr. Dickman had been Executive Director of AGBAD for the past 12 years. She was fond of saving that the Bell Association was her life and that the staff and members were her extended family. In that time, she made many lasting contributions to AGBAD. Since she began working at the Association 15 years ago, it made great progress, largely through her ideas and efforts.

She received her Bachelor of Arts from Mary Washington College, her M.Ed. from University of Virginia, and her Ph.D.

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Send us anything you think is appropriate. Items should be of national, not just local, interest. Typed articles with photos preferred. Photos, etc., will be returned on request. We reserve the right to reject or edit any material.

When we need it:

Please send material by the first of the month for publication the following month, with a 10-day grace period. (Items for November 1992 publication, for example, must be sent before October 10.) The earlier, the better. We will not accept any story more than 1 month old.

Where to send it:

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in Hearing and Speech Science from University of Maryland.

She worked as an audiologist at Veterans' Administration Hospital and Children's Hospital National Medical Center, Director of the Hearing Conservation Program of the Washington Hearing and Speech Society at Sibley Memorial Hospital, Director of the Environmental Noise Program at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and Director of Training Services for the National Energy Management Center.

She began working at the Bell Association in 1983 as the Director of Conferences and Conventions. She then became the Director of Professional Programs and Services, then Acting Executive Director, then, in 1986, Executive Director. She never retired from that position.

With Heather Whitestone, Miss America 1995, she created the *Alexander Graham Bell Association Heather Whitestone Miss America 1995 75 Stars Awards Program*, and was the architect and implementer of the 1995 joint Alexander Graham Bell Association/Miss America Organization National Multi-Media Early Identification of Hearing Loss Campaign.

She also wrote numerous articles that appeared in professional journals, newsletters, and newspapers, including Archives of Otolaryngology, Hearing and Speech News, Ear, Nose, Throat Journal, Newsounds, Volta Voices, The Volta Review, Virginia Town and City, and the Washington Star. She wrote Sounds Alive and Preparing for a Quieter Tomorrow, educational modules for teaching elementary and high-school students about noise pollution, and was the associate editor of The Possible·Dream.

She provided testimony on a wide range of deafness-related issues before many Congressional, federal, state, and local committees, and developed numerous workshops, seminars, and exhibits presented across the U.S. about the effects of noise on human health and welfare, and the harmful effects of aircraft noise.

She was a 10-year survivor of breast cancer, and had recently become actively involved in helping other cancer survivors. She participated in a videotaped guide for professionals who help cancer survivors, *The Cancer Journey: Issues for Survivors*, by the National Cancer Institute, and edited a book, Breast Cancer: A Collection of Personal Stories of Struggle and Survival, sponsored by the International Cancer Alliance for Research and Education. She also spoke publicly about surviving breast cancer and participated in a breast-cancer symposium.

Among the honors she received, Dr. Dickman was twice elected chair of the Council of Organizational Representatives, a public-policy group of 17 national organizations of, by, and for the deaf. She was recognized by the International City Management Association for developing the first interjurisdictional environmental-noise-control program in the U.S. and received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1981, and the 1990 Herbert H. Lehman Award for Excellence in Administration from the League for the Hard of Hearing.

A "Celebration of Life Service" was held for Dr. Dickman on Saturday, June 13, 1998, at Westmoreland Congregational Church, Bethesda, Maryland. Participants included Neil Dickman, Dr. Stephen Epstein, AGBAD President; Heather Whitestone McCallum; Neil Grosvenor, Chairman of the National Geographic Society, Dr. William Castle, retired Director of NTID and president of AGBAD from 1982-84 and 1990-92; and Camille Gendell, a friend of Dr. Dickman's.

As the Bell Association's announcement put it: "Donna Dickman will be missed greatly by the staff and members of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf. She was a great and inspirational leader who motivated us all to make the most of ourselves and of the association she loved so dearly."

✏ Thanks to Joe Karp, Editorial Assistant, Periodicals Department at AGBAD, for his assistance.

FREEDOM, WORK, & NEW LIVES

The ordeal of *los muditos* is over.

The June 20 edition of **The New York Times** carried a front-page article by **Mirta Ojito** (who has been covering the story since last July) that reported on the newest developments in the case.

The 49 deaf Mexican victims of the Queens trinket-peddling ring, and their 11 children, will be allowed to stay in the United States because of their help in getting their brutal "bosses" and "enforcers" convicted. Although the communication barriers were formidable, they cooperated with prosecutors to help convict the 18 men and women who held them hostage and ran the trinket-selling ring. This is their reward.

They were illegal immigrants from Mexico who had been forced to peddle trinkets in city subways until four victims, unwilling to endure the beatings and torture any longer, went to police. On the morning of July 19, 1997, the worst part of their ordeal ended. In raids on two duplex apartments in Queens, police found immigrants who had been chained and others who had been beaten by their Mexican captors. Their story shocked the nation.

Twenty persons were indicted in the Queens case. Eighteen pleaded guilty; the other two (**Renato Paoletti Lemus** and his father **José Paoletti Moreda**) are still in a Mexican jail awaiting trial, while the U.S. Attorney General's office is still seeking to have them extradited.

Nina Gershon was the presiding judge at the Federal trial. Sentencing began on May 7, when ringleader **Adriana Paoletti** received the stiffest sentence—14 years in prison—and was ordered to make $1 million restitution to the victims.

Her ex-husband **Frank Coenen** received 5 years of probation. He was charged with conspiracy to commit slavery but since he cooperated with the Government from the start,

he received the lightest sentence of all.

On June 19, the last defendant, **Agustín Rodríguez-Torres**, was sentenced to the 10 months he had already served. He was an enforcer who beat the workers and held them down while the ringleaders shocked them with stun guns. Prosecutors said that he received a lenient° sentence because he never initiated violence himself and cooperated with the Government from the start. He said that he was sorry for what he had done and that he wanted to go home. His sentencing brought the trial—and the courtroom ordeal of the victims—to a close. The Mexican victims sat quietly as the trial ended. Some wept.

Afterwards, Immigration and Naturalization Service officials said that the Mexicans and their children, who had been held in custody at the Westway Motor Inn in Astoria, Queens, since last July (11 months to the day, in fact), would be released within 30 days. City officials said that they would be allowed to stay in city-owned housing in Brooklyn as long as they needed, and were free to go anywhere they wanted, once they decided where they wanted to go. They would be fed, clothed, and housed, and their children would continue going to school. $1 million had been reserved for their care. None of them were to be deported. ACLU lawyer **Mike Wishnie**, who worked with the detainees and represented them, said that several nonprofit organizations were willing to pay for whatever training they needed to become self-sufficient. Other organizations will help them apply for Federal welfare benefits and food stamps. Mayor **Rudolph Guiliani** expressed his commitment to helping them, and the city, government, and INS followed through on that commitment.

The Mexicans didn't really know for sure if they would be allowed to stay until all the defendants had pleaded guilty. Last February, as the trials were making progress, prosecutors began discussing the possibility of offering them legal status.

Uncertain of their futures, they filled their days at the Westway by making stunningly beautiful handicrafts, watching Spanish-language soap operas, and playing board games. They were not allowed outside without an official escort, since they were still INS detainees. Any of them who left the Westway unescorted would be arrested. Their school-age children attended local public schools, and they were taken to basic-education classes.

INS spokesman **Russell Bergeron, Jr.** said that they would be able to apply for special S-visas given to those who help criminal investigations. Those who want to return to Mexico will be free to do so as soon as travel arrangements could be made. Some 10 to 15 of the Mexicans do want to go back, but most are afraid to; they fear retaliation from the families of the men and women they helped convict.

S-visas are issued in very limited numbers to cooperating witnesses who provide information for the prosecution of cases in the States, or those who fear for their safety if they return home. To apply, a petitioner needs a law-enforcement agency as a sponsor. The Mexicans have three sponsors: INS, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. The final decision is made by the Attorney General and the INS. Although it can take months to process the petitions, an INS official said that the Mexicans wouldn't be held in custody for more than 30 days. Once they have S-visas, they can apply for legal residency in 3 years, and 5 years after that, full citizenship.

Wishnie said his clients are glad their oppressors are going to jail. "They are excited that the case is over . . . at the same time they are anxious to leave the hotel and begin new lives in the United States."

lenient: light; mild.

THE N.A.D. CONFERENCE: HOW IT WENT

More than 2,500 people from all over the United States and abroad attended the 44th Biennial Conference of the National Association of the Deaf in San Antonio, Texas, July 7-11.

Opening ceremonies on Tuesday, July 7, got the conference off to a great start with a colorful parade of state flags carried by contestants in the Miss Deaf America Pageant and the NAD College Bowl competitions. **Meghan Rainone**, Miss Deaf America 1996-98, signed an inspirational National Anthem and outgoing NAD President **Benjamin Soukup** summarized his term, telling the crowd about his efforts in reaching out to deaf Americans through the NAD Tour. Highlighting his presentation were video clips of the tour shown on the two Texas-sized screens.

The keynote address was given by **Bobbie Beth Scoggins**, Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and President of the USA Deaf Sports Federation (formerly AAAD). Scoggins, a native Texan, told the audience that organizations like the NAD and others across the country are "fighting for understanding and respect among all people, both deaf and hearing. This involves building bridges and establishing linkages between different communities."

Representatives of the two top-level (Silver) sponsors, Bell Atlantic and Sprint, provided words of welcome. **Rich Ellis** of Bell Atlantic also took the opportunity to announce that his company will soon be implementing 7-1-1 as the call-in number for relay services in their calling region. He also announced that NAD is the recipient of a $50,000 grant from the Bell Atlantic Foundation to improve the NAD Website. Welcoming remarks were also given by numerous representatives of NAD-affiliate organizations.

Other conference sponsors were Southwestern Bell, Gallaudet University, NTID, Merrill Lynch, and MCI. Additional conference support included AT&T Telephone Relay Services and Skytel.

➳ **A new approach:** New this year was the symposium format. Ten forums were held on different topics of interest:

Civil/Human Rights, Education, Human Services, Interpreting, Language and Culture, Member Services, Multicultural Issues, Structure and Operations, Telecommunications/ Technology. and Youth. Bills were held over a 3-day span. NAD members were able to actively participate in the bill-development process. Bills developed and prioritized in these forums were then brought to the Council of Representatives for final approval. A total of 30 mandates resulted from the prioritization and will be the focus of the NAD for the next two years. This is a big change from the over 200 mandates that had been passed at previous conventions.

➳ **A new President & Board:** A new Board of Directors was also selected, including **Elizabeth "Libby" Pollard** of Pittsburgh, President (the 29th president of the NAD); **Daniel Brubaker** of Danville, Kentucky, Secretary; and **Mark Apodaca** of Los Angeles, re-elected Treasurer.

Pollard has served on the NAD Board of Directors since 1994 and as chair of the Committee on Services to State Associations and the NAD Bylaws Committee. Her family, of which she is the fifth-generation deaf person, has a long history of active involvement in the Deaf community. She attended the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf and upon graduation, continued her education at Gallaudet College for 3 years, taking a leave of absence to raise her four sons.

After 30 years in the computer field, Pollard retired this past February. For the last 3 decades, she has been associated with various organizations and has held offices of president, vice president, and secretary of the local FRAT division, Pittsburgh women's and mixed bowling leagues, WPSD Alumni Association, Pittsburgh Association of the Deaf, and the Pennsylvania Society of the Advancement of the Deaf. Currently, Pollard is taking correspondence courses to become a certified parliamentarian; she is a member of the American Institute of Parliamentarians.

➳ **Regional reps:** Joining the officers on the Board of Directors are four new regional representatives and four continuing from the previous term. Region I (Connecticut, Delaware, Washington D.C., Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia) is represented by returning Board member **Philip N. Moos** (West Trenton, New Jersey) and new member **Earnest Okwara** (East Providence, Rhode Island).

Region II (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) is represented by returning Board member **Claudia Bergquist** (Columbus, Ohio) and new member **Tom Kober** (Vermillion, South Dakota).

Region III (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico) is represented by returning Board member **Judith Gilliam** (Talladega, Alabama) and new member **Susanna Bourgeois** (Fuquay Varina, North Carolina).

Region IV (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming) is represented by returning Board member **G. Leon Curtis** (Lacey, Washington) and new member **Ron Herbold** (Fremont, California). Officers serve 2-year terms while regional representatives serve 4-year terms.

➳ **Events:** The Texas Association of the Deaf served as the local conference hosts. TAD Local Committee Chair **Patti Singleton** and her amazing committee members arranged for tours around San Antonio, river-barge cruises, and Fiesta Night on Wednesday evening.

The American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA), a professional organization within the NAD, had its own meetings, workshops, and events during the conference week. Those activities, together with 116 exhibit booths and more than 85 workshops, kept conference attendees very busy!

Recognition awards were presented to 32 persons and organizations throughout the conference week.

Evenings were filled with various events. At Tuesday's President's Reception, the NAD was presented with a check for $1,500 from the staff of Communication Service for the Deaf in South Dakota as a donation to the Tree of Life Endowment Fund.

➳ **College Bowl:** The NAD College Bowl took place on Thursday evening, with the trophy going to the Gallaudet University team, consisting of **Jonathan Lamberton**, **David Kurs**, **Terry Giansanti**, and **Christian Wojnar**. Gallaudet was in the lead from the beginning, ending the academic and Deaf Culture contest with a score of 93. California State University, Northridge (CSUN) came in second with a score of 56 points, followed by NTID with 26 points.

➳ **A new Miss Deaf America:** And, of course, the new Miss Deaf America was selected after an intense week of preliminary competitions, concluding with the pageant finals on Friday evening. **Amy Wong**, Miss Deaf California, was crowned Miss Deaf America 1998-2000. She is the first Asian-American to win the title. A 21-year-old Fine Arts/ Animation major at CSUN, Wong plans to attend a fine-arts school after graduation and work in the animation/film field. She is the 17th Miss Deaf America, and is serving as an ambassador for the NAD with presentations and performances at various national and local events during 1998 to 2000.

Her court of honor included **Camille Schwarzenberger**, Miss Deaf Kansas, first runner-up; **Krista Thies**, Miss Deaf Oklahoma, second runner-up; and **Melissa Yingst**, Miss Deaf District of Columbia, third runner-up. Wong also won the talent competition and platform presentation. She is the 17th MDA.

➳ **Closing:** The conference week closed with the Night of the Stars/Grand Ball on Saturday evening. The event, emceed by **Ann Lynn Smith**, showcased the talent of many deaf performers and also featured a live auction energetically led by **Mo** and **Phil Aiello**. Dancing and dessert were also on the agenda.

The 45th Biennial NAD Conference will be in Norfolk, Virginia, in 2000.

★ ★NATIONAL NEWS ★ ★

A.D.W.A.S. GOES NATIONAL!

This is taken from Executive Director **Marilyn J. Smith's** report in the Summer 1998 issue of ADWAS's newsletter.

Twelve years after its founding, Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services has gone national and is providing five selected cities across America with training and consultation on the ADWAS model. This really started in 1996 when I began the first of many trips to Washington, D.C. to discuss funding for this project with the Office of Victims of Crime in the U.S. Department of Justice. A concept paper was presented to them in January 1997. Funding was granted later that fall with a project starting date of January 1998.

The "Justice For Deaf Victims" project fulfills a long-time dream of the ADWAS board and staff. Since 1986, ADWAS has been the only agency in the country that exclusively serves Deaf and Deaf-Blind victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Travels throughout the country by the ADWAS staff told them that Deaf communities were ready to set up their own programs. The basis for selecting the first five cities were the following criteria: readiness; able pool of volunteers; and willingness to adhere to the ADWAS philosophy. ADWAS believes that the best way to serve Deaf victims is through agencies where Deaf people truly have power and control and where the environment is culturally and linguistically Deaf in every sense of the word.

The five cities and trainees chosen for the 1998 training are:

- Boston: **Heidi Clemmy**, **Alison Weiner**, **Elise Knopf**, and **Lillian Garcia**
- Minneapolis/St. Paul: **Linda Russell**, **Kathy Schumacher**, **CiCi Scofield**, and **Bev Hull**
- Austin: **Bridget Bonheyo**, **Jo Bienvenu**, **Rosie Serna**, **Donna DiMarco-Thompson**, and **Kristine Clarke**
- San Francisco/Bay Area: **Claire Ellis**, **Sue Saline**, **Judith Frugé**, and **Julie Rems-Smario**
- Rochester, NY: **Beth Carney**, **Sharon Haynes**, **Shirley Moore-Reid**, and **Sharon Staehle**

During the week of March 22, these 22 Deaf women convened in Seattle for an intensive week-long training on the following topics: sexual assault, domestic violence, setting up a 24-hour crisis line, recruiting and training volunteers, oppression and diversity, and community organizing.

Trainers included: All the ADWAS staff, **Karen Bosley**, private consultant; **Paula Togawa**, physician's assistant; and **Barbara Jean Wood**, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Boston.

The Seattle Deaf community was invited to meet the trainees at a reception during the training week. Special guest speakers were **Joye Whatley**, grant manager with the Office of Victims of Crime in Washington, D.C., and B.J. Wood. One woman from each city also spoke about the impact this training will have on her community. It was an en emotionally charged evening as nearly everyone spoke from the heart

Follow-up training includes having two of the ADWAS staff visit each city for a week in the autumn. Training will be individually designed to meet the needs of each community. The long-term goal is to have each city running a program similar to that of ADWAS within the next year or two.

It is from this project we hope to build a strong coalition of programs dedicated to serving Deaf and Deaf-Blind victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in this country and working towards ending violence.

★ ★ LEGAL BRIEFS ★ ★

LISTEN UP, HOSPITALS!

Patients denied interpreters and TTY access are fighting back

Connecticut: On June 26, 32 Connecticut hospitals agreed with the Justice Department to set up the first statewide system of round-the-clock sign-language interpreters for deaf/HH patients.

The agreement with the hospitals and the Connecticut Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities was filed in U.S. District Court in Hartford. It would resolve a class-action lawsuit brought by that state office alleging that Connecticut hospitals were violating the Americans with Disabilities Act by failing to provide sign-language interpreters. The agreement was expected to be approved by the court and the class of plaintiffs.

"People with disabilities have an equal right to health care, [but] if doctors cannot communicate with their patients, the patients cannot get the health care that they need," said Assistant Attorney General **Bill Lann Lee**, head of the Department's Civil Rights Division. He commended the hospitals for agreeing to the new system.

The hospitals agreed to:

✚ Set up a statewide on-call system to provide qualified sign-language and oral interpreters 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, through Family Services Woodfield, a non-profit agency based in Bridgeport.

✚ Provide TTYs with public telephones throughout the hospitals and, when requested, in patient rooms.

✚ Add visual alarms where audible ones exist now.

✚ Train employees and volunteers in communicating deaf patients or families of patients, and provide special training for emergency, psychiatric, and social workers.

✚ Post signs advising that sign-language interpreters,

TTYs, etc., are available free.

✚ Offer training to all affiliated doctors.

Fourteen of the hospitals will pay a total of $333,000 in compensation to 54 deaf, hard-of-hearing (and other) persons who were affected by the past lack of effective communication. They also will pay $20,000 in attorney fees to the state Office of Protection and Advocacy.

"This statewide system to provide sign language and oral interpreters— which is the first of its kind in the country— will enable doctors, nurses, and other health care personnel to communicate effectively with deaf patients or deaf family members or companions of hearing patients," said **Stephen C. Robinson**, U.S. Attorney in Connecticut. He called the new system "crucial to ensuring that persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing are diagnosed accurately and receive appropriate medical care."

The state Office of Protection and Advocacy brought the original class-action suit against 10 hospitals. The Justice Department intervened as a plaintiff and 22 other hospitals voluntarily intervened as defendants to participate in the shared system to provide interpreters and to avoid any future liability.

Recently, the Justice Department also intervened in and resolved a lawsuit against Maine Medical Center of Portland, Maine. (See following item.) Under an agreement approved in May by a federal court, MMC will provide sign-language and oral interpreters and other aids necessary for hospital workers to communicate with deaf or hard-of-hearing persons.

On June 15, a New Jersey hospital paid $700,000 to four deaf people in the largest settlement ever to end a lawsuit over failure to provide sign-language interpreters. Lawyer **Clara R. Smit** said that these patients went to Jersey City Medical Center at least 300 times and never once had interpreters, even though one had a Cesarean section and another was HIV-positive and didn't receive counseling.

Federal law has required sign-language interpreters in hospitals since 1973, but many of the nation's hospitals don't provide them, she said. "Most hospitals haven't been doing this," she said. "We're hoping this will tell other hospitals that they better start doing it. Otherwise, you're going to have to pay."

✏ From **Michael J. Sniffen's** Associated Press report, "Connecticut Hospitals To Aid Deaf," June 26, carried on NJ-L News. ➤

Maine: The National Association of the Deaf represented a deaf woman, **Janet DeVinney**, in an agreement that was reached in early June with Maine Medical Center (MMC).

The hospital agrees to provide comprehensive services for deaf and hard-of-hearing patients and to be a model for other programs. The parties entered into a Consent Decree that was approved by the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine. The 38-page document establishes policies and procedures that will make MMC a leader in providing access to deaf/HH people who use the hospital. This access includes sign-language interpreters and other forms of auxiliary aids like TTY services, captioning, and assistive-listening devices.

The suit was brought against MMC after DeVinney didn't receive adequate interpreter services. During a 5-day stay in 1996, she was not provided with an interpreter until more than 3 full days had passed.

The Department of Justice intervened after the complaint was filed in the District Court. Rather than go to trial, DeVinney and the MMC decided to work together to improve services for other deaf/HH patients.

Marc Charmatz of the NAD Law Center, Charmatz, along with **Deirdre M. Smith** of Portland, represented DeVinney in reaching this agreement. He said: "Federal and state laws require health-care agencies to make sure that deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals can communicate effectively with their doctors. Equal access to medical services is a basic civil-rights issue that will be enforced by courts. It is significant that Ms. DeVinney and MMC have agreed on this model program, and we hope that hospitals throughout the country will adopt it."

New Jersey: In the largest case of its kind in New Jersey and across the nation, a New Jersey hospital recently agreed to pay $700,000 to four deaf New Jersey residents for failure to provide interpreters, closed-captioning and TTYs over at least a 10-year period. The hospital, Jersey City Medical Center, repeatedly denied effective communication to the four plaintiffs and other similarly situated deaf patients in what amounts to probably hundreds of times over the years with serious repercussions° for them and the deaf community at large in the Jersey City area. The plaintiffs' lawyer, **Clara R. Smit** of East Brunswick, announced that the JCMC had entered into a public-consent order agreeing to utilize certain protocol to ensure that reasonable accommodation will be provided to future deaf patients under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Anthony Williams, **Ida Hickson**, **Jackeline Schreiber**, and **Vanessa Pettiford**, all of Jersey City, filed this lawsuit under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, the ADA, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For a period of approximately 10 years, Williams, Schreiber, Hickson, Pettiford who are all Deaf and communicate primarily in ASL, went to JCMC for treatment of various health problems ranging from minor to major. JCMC failed to call any interpreter, despite federal and state laws that require that all hospitals provide reasonable accommodation, including qualified interpreters, to ensure that effective communication take place with all patients. JCMC also failed to provide an operable TTY or closed-captioned TVs.

After experiencing frustration and emotional anguish from being unable to communicate with doctors and medical staff during this period of treatment, the four plaintiffs decided to sue JCMC to prevent this from happening to other deaf patients. In addition to Smit, who specializes in representing deaf people, Marc Charmatz of the NAD Law Center was also admitted *pro hac vice*° as trial co-counsel.

After 3 years of litigation,° the parties agreed to settle the case when JCMC agreed to payment of $700,000 in monetary damages, attorneys' fees and costs, and injunctive relief in the consent order, which (as of late June) had yet to be filed with the Hudson County Court. The proposed consent order provides for signage to be posted throughout the hospital to alert both patients and staff alike to the hospital's responsibility to provide interpreters, closed-captioning, and TTYs to deaf patients who require them for effective communication. The consent order also mandates that the hospital follow several steps to ensure all possible efforts are made to obtain an interpreter whenever required throughout the day or night. Training and policy changes to implement the consent order, which will become part of the hospital's administrative policy, are also required as part of the order. The order shall be entered as a judgment against JCMC. Failure to comply with the order in the future will subject JCMC to court-contempt charges.

Williams, Pettiford, Schreiber, Hickson, Smit, and Charmatz are extremely pleased with the settlement and hope to see major changes in the policies and practices of New Jersey hospitals and those across the country as more and more of these cases are brought. Although the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act specifically require that a hospital provide reasonable accommodation such as interpreters to ensure effective communication, it is only recently that deaf people have begun to feel empowered to start bringing these lawsuits. For deaf people, communication difficulties in the past created extremely limited access to the legal community and the courts in general. Thus, Smit, who is fluent in ASL and whose parents are deaf, is the first attorney in New Jersey to bring these suits. Charmatz has been actively defending the rights of deaf people for over 20 years and continues to litigate° these cases across the country. Smit also has many other cases involving deaf people's rights and has brought five other cases against New Jersey hospitals: Bayonne Hospital,* St. Peter's Hospital, Jersey Shore Medical Center, Raritan Bay Medical Center, and St. Joseph's Hospital. All of these cases have been brought for failure to provide interpreters to deaf patients and all are still pending, except the case against Bayonne Hospital. The Bayonne case was the first of its kind in New Jersey and one of the first in the nation. It was settled last June with payment of undisclosed monetary damages and a consent order.

repercussions: (*noun*) long-term consequences; results.

pro hac vice: (Latin idiom) literally, "for this turn." For this particular case only.

litigation: (*noun)* a legal action or process involving a dispute, but not necessarily going to court. The legal process involves teams of lawyers, research, briefs, meetings, discussions, judges' opinions, and a lot of paperwork.

litigate: (*verb*) file suit; to engage in legal proceedings, especially on behalf of a plaintiff. The noun form is *litigation*.

*See "Scalpel? Clamps? Interpreter?" in the April 1998 "News Briefs," pp. 6-7.

★ ★ ★ HONORS ★ ★ ★

STARS & STETHOSCOPES: NCOD BESTOWS ITS AWARDS

NCOD award winners. Left to right: Robert Ketch of Five Acres' Deaf Services, Dr. Stanley Kunin, Dr. Gertrude S. Galloway, NCOD Director Herb Larson, Dr. Judith Pachciarz, and Dr. Wayne McIntire. (Photo: Tom Moran)

The 21st National Center on Deafness Awards Ceremony (originally known as the Dan Cloud Awards) was held on Saturday, February 28. The gala event was held at NCOD's home, California State University, Northridge, in the campus's new Grand Salon. Nearly 200 honored guests and dignitaries from the Deaf community and Hollywood were in attendance for an evening of elegant dining, a silent auction, and a series of awards to notables and celebrities and their supporters from the Deaf community.

NCOD presented five awards this year, honoring persons and organizations who have made a difference in the lives of deaf and hard-of-hearing people. Two *NCOD Distinguished Service Awards* were presented during the evening. The first went to Deaf Services at Five Acres, a program serving abused and at-risk deaf children and hearing children of deaf parents. The other recipient of the Distinguished Service Award was Dr. **Wayne McIntire**, retired CSUN professor and one of the founders of the National Leadership Training Program, the precursor to the National Center on Deafness.

Two deaf persons from the field of medicine, who "dared to be different," were honored with the *John T. Bulwer Award*, named for the English physician who wrote two treatises on manual communication in 1644. Dr. **Stanley Kunin**, a Los Angeles veterinarian, graduated from high school, college, and veterinary school without the assistance of support services. He now has a thriving veterinary practice in Woodland Hills, California. The other recipient of the Bulwer Award, Dr. **Judith Pachciarz**, was the first deaf student to

graduate from the University of Illinois. She persevered for 17 years before a medical school would finally accept her; she now is not only a pathologist, she also serves as an assistant professor in pathology for both Drew and UCLA Schools of Medicine. Dr. Pachciarz has distinguished herself as the first deaf person to earn both an M.D. and a Ph.D., as well as being the first deaf female physician.

The evening's final honoree was Dr. **Gertrude S. Galloway,** recipient of the 1998 *Daniel T. Cloud Award.* **Dan Cloud** (1900-1962) was one of America's truly great educational leaders in the field of deafness. The award was established by NCOD in 1967 to perpetuate his memory, vision, and remarkable contributions to the field of education for deaf/HH persons. Dr. Galloway was selected as this year's recipient for her numerous contributions to the field of deaf education. She began her career as an ASL instructor, continuing as a mathematics teacher, a college lecturer, and as an assistant principal, before becoming the ninth superintendent—the first deaf woman—at the distinguished Marie Katzenback School for the Deaf in New Jersey.

In addition to the auction and catered dinner, amidst the elegant silver and black decorations, guests were treated to a video montage of noteworthy faces and events from the NLTP and the NCOD from 1960 through 1998. One of the evening's honored guests, **Nanette Fabray**, regaled the audience—as well as Dr. Kunin—with a impromptu anecdote about her friend **Phyllis Diller's** visit to a veterinarian. Finally, the audience was treated to a beautiful poetic ASL interpretation of "When You Wish Upon a Star" by two CSUN students, **Amy Wong**, Miss Deaf California (now Miss Deaf America 1998-2000), and **Sarahlena Sarver**, Miss Deaf CSUN. All in attendance agreed that the evening was a huge success and NCOD's director, **Herb Larson**, said the evening was "the best Awards Ceremony in the history of the NCOD."

—**Tom Moran**/CSUN

ANOTHER HONOR FOR VINT CERF

On July 2, **Vinton G. Cerf**, Senior Vice President of Internet Architecture and Engineering at MCI and co-founder of the Internet, received the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf's Bell Award for his "incredible contribution to building a whole new world of communication access" for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. The Bell Award was presented to him at AGBAD's 1998 International Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Cerf, along with colleague Dr. **Robert Kahn,** developed the networking protocol, TCP/IP, which has become the underlying foundation for the Internet. After accepting the award, he delivered the featured address on his vision of the impact of the Internet on persons with disabilities in the coming millennium.

"As an individual who is 'hearing-repaired,' I'm extremely proud of the level-playing-field result the text-based Internet has had on communications among hard-of-hearing and hearing communities alike," said Cerf. "As the Internet incorporates more audio, I'd like to see close captioning evolve with the medium to ensure that full access can be enjoyed by everyone who uses it."

The Bell Award is presented to persons or organizations outside the fields of education and rehabilitation for outstanding contributions related to deafness. Past recipients of the Bell Award include presidents **John F. Kennedy** (posthumously) and **Lyndon Johnson**.

Both Cerf and his wife, Sigrid, have significant heating loss—Vint has a moderate loss while Sigrid is profoundly deaf. He wears two hearing aids. Two years ago, Sigrid, who was deaf since she was 3, received a Clarion cochlear implant that enables her to hear in some cases better than a person without any hearing loss. She learned about this technology, tracked its success, and met her implant surgeon, Dr. **John Niparko**, via the Internet. (NJ-L News) ➤

Left to right: Jim Kohlmoos, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education; Tom Hendershot, Agent, Northern Life Insurance Company; Larry Stein, Vice President, Northern Life; Jim Beach, Agent, Northern Life; David R. Schleper, Literacy Coordinator, PCNMP; and Michael Dubes, CEO & President, Northern Life.

DAVE SCHLEPER HONORED

Teaching parents the joy of reading is no 9-to-5 job

National campaigns across the country are stressing the importance of reading to children for the development of literacy. For many hearing parents who have deaf or hard-of-hearing children, reading stories to their children has been limited or non-existent due to communication barriers.

Through the Shared Reading Project developed by **David R. Schleper**, Literacy Coordinator for Pre-College National Mission Programs at Gallaudet University, families across the country are learning how to read stories to their deaf or hard-of-hearing children, using ASL. The Shared Reading Project sends deaf tutors to individual homes to teach families how to read to these children.

ReliaStar and Northern Life Insurance Company recognized Schleper's achievement in setting up the Shared Reading Project at Kendall Demonstration Elementary School, by awarding him the Grand Prize in its 4th Annual "Unsung Hero" Award and $27,000 for the Project, in a ceremony held June 10.

In presenting the award to Schleper, **Michael Dubes**, CEO of Northern Life, recognized Schleper as "an educator who makes a difference, the kind of real role model who every day brings positive, powerful life-long influences on students . . . The involvement of parents [in the Shared Reading Project] was also one of the key reasons the program was chosen for recognition."

Schleper competed against 2,000 other entrants from which 100 educators were selected for recognition. A committee of award-winning teachers, administrators, and college presidents selected the three top prize winners.

The Shared Reading Project has served 75 KDES families from birth to second grade in Washington, Maryland, and Virginia. It targets children from birth to age 8, a critical period for acquiring literacy, and provides families with materials, strategies, and support to encourage parents and guardians to read to their deaf/HH children. Deaf tutors visit the homes to demonstrate how to sign the stories, and provide instant feedback for family members. Once a week for 20 weeks, the tutor reviews a new story and leaves a training video for the family to practice with during the week. When possible, the tutors match the ethnic background of the family. The project expanded this year to five sites in West Virginia, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Washington State, and Minnesota.

As he accepted the "Unsung Hero Award," Schleper, a native of Shakopee, Minnesota, remembered that his father, who died last month, inspired him to become a teacher. When, as a high-school student, he expressed interest in becoming a teacher, his father warned him, "You know teaching will never be a 9-to-5 job . . . did you want that level of responsibility?" Schleper said yes. His Shared Reading Project now brings parents and children together to share the joys of reading. "Not only does the Project offer support in reading, it also introduces the family to a positive Deaf role model who can give them a better understanding of Deaf culture and of options for their children's futures," he said. "One of the mothers participating in the project asked the tutor, 'Do you think my child can go to Gallaudet one day?' and was amazed when the tutor said, 'Yes, if you start now and read to your child every day.'"

Schleper plans to use the award money to develop materials for schools and other organizations on how to set up a Shared Reading Program.

For more information about the Shared Reading Project contact: David R. Schleper, PCNMP, Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Avenue, NE, Washington, DC, 20002; ☎(202) 651-5877; ❖drschleper@gallua.gallaudet.edu; ✱http://www.gallaudet.edu/~pcnmplit/literacy/index.html.

For more information about ReliaStar and Northern Life's Unsung Heroes Award, visit their Website at ✱www.unsungheroes.com.

★ ★ ★ COLLEGES ★ ★ ★

NEW FACES ON THE N.A.G.

In early June, Dr. **Robert Davila**, Vice President of Rochester Institute of Technology for NTID, announced that Congress had approved the appointment of **Marcia B. Dugan**, Dr. **Thomas K. Holcomb**, Dr. **Paul W. Ogden**, and **David H. Pierce** to NTID's National Advisory Group.*

The NAG advises the Vice President of NTID in carrying out policies governing NTID's operation. The group is made up of professionals concerned with education and technical training at the post-secondary level and those who are familiar with the services provided by NTID.

Dugan is the author of **Keys to Living with Hearing Loss** (Barron's, 1997). She earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio. She served as Director of Public Relations at Keuka College in Keuka Park, New York, and was an instructor there. During her 15-year tenure at NTID, she held a variety of positions, including Public Information Manager, Associate Director and Director of Public Affairs, and Special Assistant for Public Information to the Director of NTID. She is the former president and a member of the National Board of Directors of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) and president of the Rochester chapter, a former member of the American Association of University Women, a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging, and former member of the New York State Republican Platform Committee. Now living in Penn Yan, New York, Dugan is currently a member of the Keuka College Board of Trustees and the Alumni Board of Antioch College.

Holcomb is an Associate Professor in the Deaf Center, Ohlone College, Fremont. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Gallaudet University, Master's in Career and Human Resource Development from RIT, and his doctorate in Education from University of Rochester. His work includes design and implementation of courses related to Deaf Studies. He was Assistant Professor at NTID from 1982-1991 and Associate Professor at San Jose State University, College of Education, Division of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in San Jose from 1991-1993. He has served as a consultant to the New York State School for the Deaf in Rome and St. Mary's School for the Deaf in Buffalo, among others. He has been named to **Who's Who Among America's Teachers**, received Gallaudet University's Outstanding Young Alumnus Award, and NTID's Staff Humanitarian and Outstanding Staff awards. Along with his brother **Samuel Kay Holcomb** and father **Roy Kay Holcomb**, he is co-author of **Deaf Culture, Our Way** (DawnSignPress, 1994) and numerous articles on issues related to deafness and education.

Ogden is the author of **The Silent Garden: Raising Your**

Deaf Child (Gallaudet University Press, 1996), and is a Professor of Deaf Studies/Deaf Education in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, California State University-Fresno. He received his Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Computers from Antioch College, and Master's and doctoral degrees in Educational Psychology and Deafness from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has been involved in the education of deaf students at the College of the Sequoias, Visalia, California, and the University of Illinois, Champaign and Urbana campuses. He is a member of AGBAD, American Society for Deaf Children, American College Educators for the Deaf, NAD, Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf, and California Associations of the Deaf, Physically Handicapped, and Teachers of Sign Language. He has served as a consultant to a number of school districts in California and the Vermont Center for Independent Living and has presented at a variety of conventions and workshops throughout the country.

Pierce is Vice President of Programming and Operations at Kaleidoscope Network Inc., a 24-hour cable network offering information and entertainment to viewers on major health concerns and disabilities. He earned an Associate degree in Media Technologies from NTID. He is a member of the NAD, the National Cable Television Association and its Closed Captioning Task Force, and serves as a mentor for Computer Technologies for the Physically Disabled Business Advisory Council Mentor Program. He has been a representative for the GLAD and a member of TAD. He is the inventor of the Pierce Method for Deaf Editors, an editing technique for cutting video to audio by deaf and hard-of-hearing editors. He received the 1993 NTID Distinguished Alumnus Award, is included in **Who's Who in the Media and Communications**, and was named one of the Top 10 People in 1997 by **Hearing Health** Magazine.

*Just for the record, NTID's full name is the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and it's one of 7 colleges of Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

SMART INVESTMENT

In 1988, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation began its relationship with NTID with the establishment of the Ralph M. Parsons Emergency Loan Fund and continued its support by joining forces with other benefactors to help create the NTID Learning Center in 1996.

The Parsons Foundation recently extended its 10-year partnership with NTID, with a $155,000 commitment to create four new "smart" classrooms that will support the teaching-learning process for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Said Dr. Davila: "NTID's goal related to technology is more than basic computer literacy for all graduates. It is the integration of computer and technology skills resulting on a level of competency that enables our graduates to 'hit the ground running' in their chosen career. This generous commitment from the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation will bring us that much closer to realizing our goal."

Each classroom will include technology that provides state-of-the-art instructional-development capability such as large-capacity data-recording devices, computer animation, captioning (particularly audio from the Internet), color duplicating and printing, and an electronic library of digitally-stored curriculum materials. Instructional-display equipment also will be showcased in the "smart classrooms" to maximize the visual learning that predominates among deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

INSPIRATION & ENERGY: NTID'S FIRST LUCE WINNER

Katherine Hoheusle of Bethel, New York, recently became the winner of the first Clare Boothe Luce Scholarship at RIT.

Hoheusle, a third-year imaging science major in RIT's College of Science receiving NTID support, met and exceeded the scholarship criteria for deaf women students matriculated in science or engineering baccalaureate-degree programs. She holds a 3.2 GPA out of a possible 4.0 and has been named to the College of Science's Dean's List for two quarters.

She was selected to be one of three students to accompany NTID Director Dr. Robert Davila to testify in February in front of the U.S. Senate subcommittee considering NTID legislation and funding for deaf-education initiatives. As a member of the 1996 NTID Deaf College Bowl team, she helped win the national championship and was the captain and only female member of the NTID team that competed at the 1998 NAD Conference.

On campus, she has been a Resident Advisor, member of the College of Science Dean's Advisory Board, NTID Student Congress Affiliated Director, secretary of the Deaf Hillel Club, member of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, and is running for the position of NTID Senator for RIT Student Government. She recently participated in the "Faces of Change" workshop for female high-school students interested in the fields of science and mathematics held at RIT.

Hoheusle's accomplishments embody the "Renaissance spirit" of the scholarship's namesake and sponsor, the late **Clare Boothe Luce**, who was a successful journalist, diplomat, and politician. Luce intended the scholarship "to encourage women to enter, study, graduate, and teach" in fields where there have seemingly been obstacles to their advancement. **Eileen D. Marron**, Assistant Dean of RIT's College of Science, said, "Katie is a truly involved student who leads, inspires, and energizes her peers. She is articulate, creative and enthusiastic."

Of her interest in science and technology, Hoheusle says, "Science and technology have played a very important role in my life, not only because of my interest, but because I can hear with hearing aids due to the wonderful technological advances made in the last 20 years. There are no bounds to

my life, and I am making as much of it as I can."

★ ★ ★ SCHOOLS ★ ★ ★

KSD CELEBRATES ITS 175TH

from a report by **Artie Grassman**, Director of Outreach Services & Community Relations

What a week! Activities transpired in each building to commemorate the week-long celebration of 175 years of KSD tradition and excellence in education. It was definitely a week to remember. The kick-off was on Monday, March 30, in Grow Dining Hall with the 175th-anniversary cake! On Wednesday evening, we had a schoolwide dessert party and students reported on the week's events. The elementary school really "stole the show" but everyone made valuable contributions. On Thursday, we planted the 175th anniversary tree (a pin oak) between Thomas Hall Gym and Kerr Hall (high-school building). Next to it we planted a *time capsule*! We pledged to return in the year 2023 to find out what's in it!

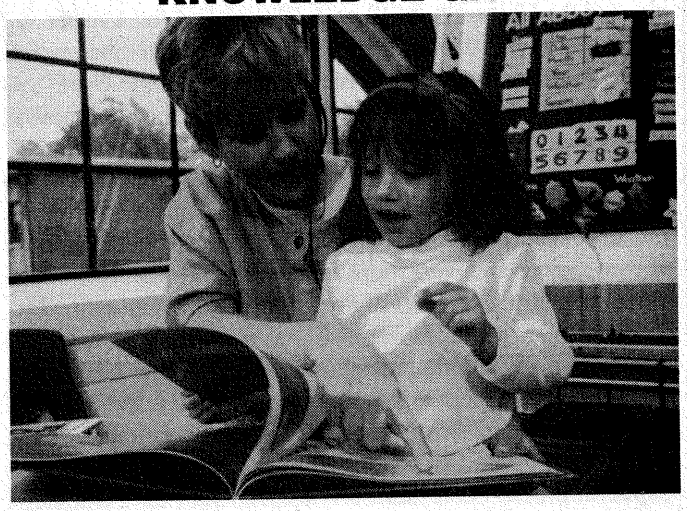
The week culminated with the 175th anniversary banquet in Thomas Hall Gym. **Archie Harris**, Chair of the 175th-anniversary events, did an outstanding job of organizing the event along with help from many others at KSD. The gym had been beautifully transformed into a banquet hall by **Barbie Harris**, Art Instructor, and.her students and committee members. Over 500 people attended the banquet. It was a truly special evening with many visiting dignitaries. The photographs around the room captured the essence of the history of KSD and we all felt a strong sense of accomplishment, mission, and pride in where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. Superintendent **Harvey J. Corson** said, "We are only 175 years young!" Dr. **Merv Garretson** was the guest speaker at the banquet and the talented CRIDDERS, featuring **Keith Vinci** and **Leslie Warren**, closed out the evening with the entertainment. It was a memorable night.

KSD is proud to celebrate its 175th year anniversary with the passage of House Bill 237. This bill, signed into law on April 1, establishes KSD as the Statewide Educational Resource Center on Deafness to provide educational resource services and technical assistance to parents/families, local-school districts, and public and private agencies; and to permit KSD to enter into collaborative agreements. The bill was introduced by Representative **Joe Clarke**.

On February 25, Kentucky Governor **Paul Patton** signed Senate Bill 37, which establishes licensure for interpreters working for pay in non-religious settings in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This landmark accomplishment was the result of an extraordinary collaborative effort among deaf and hard-of-hearing consumers, interpreters, state agencies, and parents.

Dr. Corson said, "Senate Bill 37 will ensure quality interpreting services for deaf individuals in the state of Kentucky and will assist both deaf and hearing persons who are users of interpreter services to feel much more confident about the integrity and quality of interpreting services."

BRIDGING THE "KNOWLEDGE GAP"



A teacher at AIDB works with a young student on her reading skills while she enjoys a new picture book.

Excellence is doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way. On May 21, the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind dedicated the nation's first centers of excellence established to teach language and science to deaf and blind children, empowering them for extraordinary pursuits of ordinary life concepts.

AIDB's two new Centers of Excellence, sponsored by AmSouth Bancorporation, are a tribute to one of Alabama's best known and respected civic and business leaders, **John W. Woods**, and his wife, **Loti**, in recognition of their investment in excellence.

Woods served as chairman and CEO of AmSouth Bancorporation from 1972 until 1996. He has been an advocate for education in Alabama for many years and is a member of the AIDB Board of Trustees and the AIDB Foundation Board of Directors. He has also served as a trustee for Miles College and Tuskegee University, a director of the Alabama High School of Math and Science, and was chairman of the Governor's Education Reform Commission.

"We are grateful to AmSouth Bancorporation for this single largest gift in AIDB's history," said AIDB Foundation President **Charles Collat**. "And for choosing to honor John and Loti Woods in such a memorable way. The significance of this gift and the impact of John and Loti's leadership in this state will endure for many years to come."

"The Woods Centers of Excellence are the country's first buildings dedicated to teaching language and science to deaf and blind children," said AIDB President **Joseph F. Busta,**

Jr., at dedication ceremonies on May 21. "As the new millennium approaches, our deaf and blind children must be ready to compete confidently and aggressively with their sighted and hearing peers for new high-tech jobs.

"Literacy is a critical issue in America today. It is even more critical for deaf adults who—on a national level—frequently read at only the fourth-grade level. We are pleased that at the Alabama School for the Deaf, our high-school students currently read at a level twice the national average. But we must do better. Raising the benchmark in literacy translates into higher potential for success in educational pursuits, careers, and of course quality of life for our deaf students and graduates."

The first 3 to 5 years is an important developmental period for all children. During this time, children create the foundation of their communication system, which plays a critical role in the educational process. The Woods Center of Excellence in Language Arts and Communication will provide a communication- and technology-rich environment for young preschool age children to enhance deaf students' literacy.

"The Centers of Excellence are designed to build excitement for young children," said **Sara McConatha**, Curriculum Director at AIDB. "Students will participate in plays and drama and will be told stories in American Sign Language to help them visualize plots and gain a better concept of language. We will use all available methods of communication to focus on vocabulary development. Language is an interactive learning process and with deaf children the interaction needs to be visual as well as auditory."

Linda Bove, a Deaf cast member on PBS's ***Sesame Street*** for more than 20 years, was a special guest at the Woods Language Arts Center dedication. She has performed in many theater and television roles, and through an association with Random House, has published two sign-language books featuring the Muppets. She has also produced a video, performing fairy tales with her own unique twist, which has won numerous awards. "Literacy involves more than just reading, it involves storytelling, theatrics and experiences in everyday life," she said. "You need to experience words and see those words come to life."

The Center of Excellence in Science "will help bridge the gap in knowledge that most blind students have," said **Sinikka Smothers**, a science teacher at the Alabama School for the Blind. "Although science can be taught verbally, it is the hands-on investigations that help provide a better understanding of the concepts. We teach the students all of the basic science concepts. The Center's resources will provide a lot of hands-on opportunities and materials for the students. You can tell a student everything there is to know about cells and atoms, for example, but they don't get the complete picture until they can experience it with their hands.

"We want the children to have a knowledge base that they can apply to everyday life. With the Center's investment in tactile measuring and experimental tools, the students will be able to explore measurement and other scientific principles."

A special guest at the Woods Science Center dedication was Dr. **Abraham Nemeth**, who developed the Nemeth Braille code for mathematics and science that is used throughout the world today.

Nemeth, who was born totally blind in New York, aspired to become a mathematician, but was counseled to study psychology instead because technical areas such as math and science were considered "out of bounds" or inaccessible to blind students. He later developed the Braille code for math and science, studied graduate mathematics at Columbia University, and joined the staff of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Detroit.

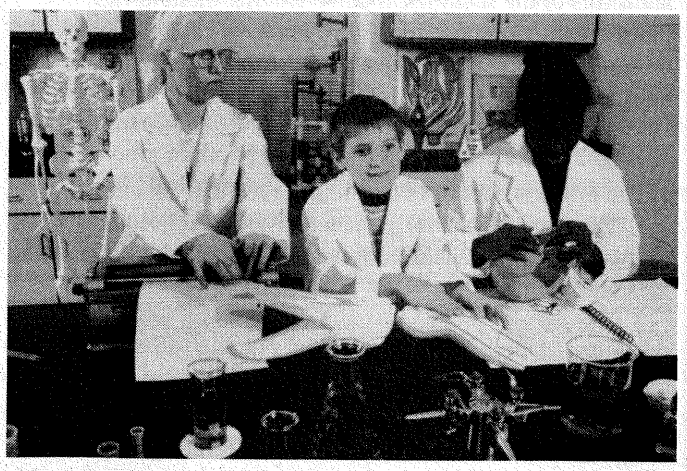
"We need to have an appreciation of science and mathematical procedures which add to the quality of life," Nemeth said. "The dedication of this new building advances our need for education and takes us further into the future. You are embarking on a wonderful endeavor today that will be a benefit to children for years to come."

"We often mark our progress in life by the anniversaries of significant events in history," Busta said. "I believe that we will one day remember this occasion by celebrating the superior academic accomplishments of our deaf and blind students and graduates."

SCIENTIFIC LITERACY: IT'S FOR BLIND STUDENTS, TOO!

Visually Impaired Children Need To Join The Hands-On Science Movement

an opinion editorial by Sinikka Smothers



Dental studies 101: Using an enlarged, textured cross-sectional model of a tooth and a life-size, take-apart skull, blind students examine the structure of teeth and the inner jaw and take notes in an ASB science lab.

"If you don't experience water you can't express it," said **Helen Keller**, who, being blind and deaf, understood the need for hands-on learning in the sciences perhaps better than anyone.

Today the need to use hands-on science instruction is well recognized and it's the standard for children in our schools.

Yet somehow, those who need hands-on science learning the most—persons with visual impairments—have been left behind in this movement.

Visually-impaired children are more like normal seeing children than different from them. They are entitled to educational opportunities equal to their sighted peers.

The goal of science education for all children should be scientific literacy which is the understanding of scientific concepts and processes required for participation in everyday life and productive employment. Scientific literacy includes the ability to use technology in the form of instruments and techniques as tools for survival.

In the case of the visually-impaired child, adaptive technology offers a gateway to equal opportunities in education and the workplace. Science and technology are reciprocal, driving each other to new, more advanced levels. Elementary students, however, should first experience science through hands-on explorations of objects, events and organisms. Teachers should guide students in investigations that pose a simple scientific question to be answered.

Even though the completely blind student lacks the experiences of seeing a rainbow, a helium balloon rising, or leaves turning colors, a rich, inquiry-based, hands-on-oriented teaching environment will help any child internalize fundamental scientific concepts on the elementary level. Models of cells, human-body organs, weather instruments, and machines, are a necessary part of a science classroom, since all materials cannot be real.

During middle school, students should develop knowledge and skills of the scientific method leading them to full independent inquiry. Full inquiry involves asking a question, designing and completing an investigation, answering the question, and presenting the results to others. It is in the laboratory that the process of inquiry is practiced and required.

The inquiry method of teaching serves four functions:

1. The emphasis on the conclusions of an activity is changed to an emphasis on the processes involved in reaching the conclusions.

2. The activity procedure ceases to be just a series of steps that tell students what to do and what to expect.

3. The student is an actual participant in the laboratory experience.

4. The artificial distinction between laboratory and classroom is erased.

For the severely visually-handicapped and the blind, laboratory equipment and procedures can pose serious obstacles, even life-threatening danger. Even though most tools can be adapted for use, there are some, such as the Bunsen burner, that would always be a hazard to a blind student. Therefore, all blind students should be assigned a partner who is capable of the required procedures as well as helpful to explain the tests and observations to the blind student.

By high school, students should have developed critical and analytical thinking which builds on the knowledge of scientific laws and theories. Students will now be able to pose valid scientific questions and present arguments about new theories. During high school, the communication of scientific information requires the ability to create graphs, charts, and diagrams. This is particularly challenging for the blind who read and write in Braille. To produce a graph in Braille can take hours, even if the basic graph form is preprinted. To provide better access to graphic output in science, we are working with Purdue University's Visions Lab, a pioneer in this field.

A good science education program aims higher than basic scientific literacy. Science education includes informed attitudes and appreciation toward the world. To know why huge ships float on the ocean, or what causes earthquakes, is certainly personally satisfying. To become involved in local environmental-protection issues is sharing one's knowledge of science in a critical and meaningful way.

We hope that our students will become responsible users of technologies, understanding that science and technology can solve problems; but create new ones at the same time. Furthermore, there are visually-impaired students in our classrooms right now, who live and breathe science and wish to make science their life's career.

We should recognize and cope with the individual needs of all students. Each child, regardless of the severity of his or her handicap, should be encouraged in all possible ways to reach his or her fullest potential in scientific literacy.

PSD SENDS 'EM OFF

Fourteen students, ages 14 and 15, received their diplomas and two noted deaf administrators were honored at Graduation Ceremonies for The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf on June 12, at the Assembly Building of Germantown Friends School, just across the street from PSD.

Each year during its graduation, PSD presents the Nevil Award of Merit to a person (hearing or deaf) who has made a significant contribution to the Deaf community. This year the Nevil Award was shared by two deaf persons, a husband and wife, both of whom have worked as able administrators at the school: **Helene K.** and **Dominick V. Bonura**.

Mrs. Bonura is a graduate of the Lexington School for the Deaf in New York City and holds degrees from Gallaudet College and Windham College in Vermont and an M.A. in Special Education from CSUN. She has worked as an elementary and junior-high-school teacher and college instructor and administrator, at both the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf in Big Spring, Texas, and at Camden County College's Mid-Atlantic Post Secondary Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Blackwood, New Jersey. She retired this June after serving as Instructional Supervisor of PSD's Early Adolescent Program for the past 5 years and has also served as curator of PSD's Deaf Heritage Center Museum.

Mr. Bonura served as Assistant Headmaster at PSD from 1986-1993. He previously was Dean of Students at SWCID and holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in education and administration from Gallaudet College/University, Keene State College, and CSUN. Since his retirement from PSD, Bonura has been a member and Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Austine School for the Deaf in Vermont, and also served as Interim Headmaster of Austine in 1996. He received the Outstanding Educator Award from New York School for the Deaf in 1994 and an Appreciation Award from Austine in 1998. The Bonuras are also the parents of three deaf children: **Tony**, a college student at Gallaudet; **Nancy**, who teaches in PSD's Early Childhood department and is a world-class skier; and **Alex**, a postal worker in Vermont.

Accepting the Nevil Award, the Bonuras spoke briefly. They then presented diplomas to each of PSD's 14 graduates who will be attending high school at either Lincoln High in Philadelphia or the MSSD on the Gallaudet campus. Members of the Class of 1998 are: **Ebony Gooden**, **Kema Moiyallah**, **Syreeta Richardson**, **Stephanie Roesner**, **Sonia Santiago**, **Teena Watson**, **Latoya Wiley**, **Jamar Canada**, **Michael Cowley**, **Andre Ray**, **Byron Scales**, and **José Urrutia**, all from Philadelphia; **Sunny Snider** of Coatesville; and **Kevin Farrell** of Glenolden. Photos of the students were shown during the ceremony and afterwards the new graduates presented an original poem, "The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf," in ASL.

LEARNING TO LISTEN

Clarke School held its commencement exercises on June 17 in the Helen Hills Chapel on the Smith College campus. **Kristen Buehl** (Clarke '79-'86) and her mother, **Holly Clark**, of McLean, Virginia, were the commencement speakers.

Buehl, a senior at Princeton University, began attending Clarke School when she was 3 years old. She attended both Lower and Middle School and entered mainstream schools when she was 10. She has a congenital profound hearing loss, but has never let her deafness get in the way of her dreams. "My mother taught me that only I, and I alone, could find and define my limits. I have learned how to play the clarinet, speak French, excel in lacrosse, participate in a gifted-and-talented program with my hearing peers, and to others' surprise, speak," she said.

Clark, who also addressed the graduates and their families, grew up in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and is an alumna of Mount Holyoke. She contacted Clarke School when her daughter was 18 months old, because she wanted her to learn to listen and talk. As both mother and mentor, Clark has helped Buehl become the confident young woman she is today.

This year's graduating class at Clarke, whose members came from Washington, Tennessee, Ohio, Massachusetts, New York and the Philippines, will enter high school with their hearing peers in the fall. Buehl and Clark also addressed graduates of the Smith College/Clarke School Graduate Teacher Education program who are joining the ranks of their predecessors now teaching deaf children in all 50 states and over 40 countries.

"WE NEVER STOP FIGHTING"

The American School for the Deaf held its 181st Commencement Exercises took place on June 18 at Garmany Field on campus. Twenty-three graduates received diplomas or certificates of completion.

Senior Class Vice President **Will Kane** of Nantucket, Massachusetts, welcomed a large crowd of family, friends, staff and schoolmates. "ASD has not only been our school—it's been our second home," he signed, admonishing his classmates to "take your greatest asset and be you." Kane offered a special thanks to UConn Professor **Peter Schiefele**, who has helped establish a college-level oceanography program. Because of his participation, Kane is planning a career in a marine-related field .

Class President **John Anthony Serrano** of Windsor, Connecticut, delivered the class address. Serrano, who graduated with a record 4-year cumulative GPA of 3.92, signed eloquently on the special challenges facing him and his classmates. "We will always face ignorance and discrimination because we are deaf," he said. "But the fact that we are deaf should not be used as an excuse not to succeed. We must prove to those people that we can overcome adversity.

"Deafness gives us inner strength because we never stop fighting. We have wonderful leaders who have achieved many advances for us. But in the future it will be up to us to be the leaders. It will be up to us to educate the world about deafness. Education is the key to eradicating ignorance and prejudice."

The Commencement speaker was **Barbara Jean Wood**, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing since 1986. B.J. has been an active advocate for deaf and hard of hearing people for many years.

B.J. first congratulated parents on their children's success. "I know you experienced a multitude of emotions when you found out your child is deaf," she said, speaking especially to the 90% of ASD parents who are hearing. "Your son or your daughter has made it. They have succeeded!" She urged graduates to give back to the society that has provided them with support and an education. "Trust your intuition, follow your instincts! And don't let fear overcome your enthusiasm," she concluded.

Students at ASD come from all parts of Connecticut, and neighboring states, with a few from foreign countries. The wide range of backgrounds and abilities presents unique challenges to which ASD responds with an exceptionally broad range of programs. The school serves deaf and hard-of-hearing infants, children, youth and adults, and provides support to their families. ASD is the oldest special education facility of any kind in the United States. Ten members of

graduating class are going on to college.

Members of the Class of 1998 are:

Liza Alers, Willimantic, CT; **Salem Al-Mazourei**, United Arab Emirates; **Kerry Anderson**, Plainville, CT; ❣**Paul Brockman**, Plainville; **Sandra Candelaria**, East Hampton, MA; ❣**Joe Creeden**, Somerville, MA; **Akemia George**, South Windsor, CT; **Rayan Grandison**, East Hartford; ❣William "Will" Kane, Nantucket, MA; **Jason Marquis**, Franklin, NH; ❣**Laurel Marshall, Hartford**; ❣**Milmaglyn "Milly" Morales,** Waterbury, CT; **Derrick Nadeau**, **Southwick**, MA; **Yasirih Rodriguez**, Springfield, MA; **David Ronnenberg**, Glastonbury, CT; **Angel Rosario,** Hartford; **Michelle Ruotolo**, West Haven; **Ryan Scheller**, Westfield, MA; ❣John Anthony Serrano, Windsor, CT; **Lon Siedman**, New Britain, CT; **David Welker, Jr.**, Windsor Locks, CT; **Melissa Wier**, Deep River, CT; and ❣**Jennifer Wingfield**, Rutland, VT.

❣ Graduating with Honors.

❣ Graduating with High Honors.

HEALTH & EDUCATION

The historic Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine is establishing a new teaching/service affiliation with the University of Florida Health Science Center. Officials of both schools see benefits in the connection.

Florida legislators recently approved the collaborative-service agreement, through which FSDB will provide a teaching and research site for students from 6 colleges at the UF Health Science Center. At the same time, students at FSDB will receive a broader range of primary health-care and health-educational services without having to leave the campus or miss classes in mid-week.

Start-up support for the program—a $279,000 state appropriation to FSDB—was awarded at the 1998 legislative session. An agreement between the two institutions was developed in late June to define the expanded program of health care and education.

Since services were activated this summer, students from the Health Science Center's campuses in Gainesville and Jacksonville are able to gain experience in caring for a population of more than 660 blind/visually impaired or Deaf/hard-of-hearing children at FSDB. The school also provides an ideal site for research into certain types of deafness, for which the cause is unknown.

Health educator **Paul Wharton**, director of the UF College of Medicine's Interdisciplinary Center at the Health Science Center-Jacksonville, said the program is beginning on a small scale with definitive health assessments, to be followed by a plan for providing the most-needed services. The actual patient-care services to FSDB students will go through the normal billing process to their parents' private health insurance or Medicaid.

Wharton said four legislators were vocal supporters of the initiative: Representatives **Bill Sublette** and **Douglass Wiles**, and Senators **Bill Bankhead** and **Jim Home**.

"We envision developing a model program of comprehensive health education and care for sensory-impaired children," said FSDB President **Elmer Dillingham**, who has served in the special-education field for 30 years. "Collaborating with the UF Health Science Center's academic programs in Gainesville and Jacksonville seems an ideal way to build such a model."

A wide range of expanded health-care services and consultative assistance are now being considered by administrators and faculty in the UF colleges of dentistry, medicine, nursing, health professions, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine. On-site management of pharmacy services and an expanded program of pediatric dentistry and orthodontic treatment are among the proposed initiatives. Faculty in clinical and health psychology, communicative disorders, occupational therapy, and rehabilitative counseling also are identifying services they may provide.

UF health professionals also will gain an opportunity to participate in the development of long-term-healthcare plans for people with sensory impairments, especially in view of the fact some of these impairments can increase with age and over time. Earlier identification of sensory impairments in children, and early interventions also, are expected to result from the UF affiliation.

FSDB students rely on a 24-hour Student Health Care Center located on the campus and staffed by registered and licensed nurses and a contracting pediatrician, who visits daily. FSDB contracts with rehabilitative specialists in physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, audiology, and clinical psychology.

Background: FSDB, founded in 1885, is the only school of its type in Florida and, coincidentally, is located in Florida's oldest city. It's nationally accredited. Students come from all parts of the state, and range from the ages of 3 to 21. Their academic abilities extend from gifted to learning-disabled. Most live at the school Monday through Friday and go home on weekends. Close to 20% are day students who ride school buses in the mornings and afternoons. With a 99% graduation rate, most of the alumni enter colleges or technical-training programs.

★ COMMUNITY EVENTS★

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, WORKSHOPS, & FESTIVALS

BRIEFLY NOTED

➨ The National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) is holding its 16th Annual Conference at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis, August 10-16. Contact: **Donald Tinsley** at ☎(317) 233-5009 (TTY) or ❖ICBDA@aol.com, or **Deka Kloepfer** at

☎(317) 232-1143 (TTY/Voice).

➨ The fifth annual *Intertribal Deaf Council of North America* will be held near Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada, from August 11 to 14. Contact **Vernon Eyaphpaise**, P. O. Box 265, Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada S0K-1J0, ☎(306) 467-2204 (TTY/Voice), ❐(306) 467-4407 (FAX).

➨ The *1998 National Jewish Deaf Congress Convention* (22nd Biennial Convention), is being held August 11-15, at Universal City, California. Host: Temple Beth Solomon of the Deaf. Contact: Convention Chair **Fred Lovitch**, ☎(818) 896-6721 (TTY), ☎(818) 899-2202 (Voice), ❐(818) 899-2123 (FAX), ❖flovitch@aol.com.

➨ Signs of Sobriety, Inc., will host a 4-Day "SoberCamp for Deaf Adults in Recovery and their Families" at Camp Kirby in Upper Black Eddy, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, from August 24 to 27. Presenters wanted. Signs of Sobriety, Inc., 865 Lower Ferry Road, Suite B9, Ewing, NJ 08628. Or call ☎(609) 882-7177 (TTY); ☎❐(609) 882-7677 (Voice/FAX); ❖SOSNJ@juno.com (E-mail).

➨ *ALDAcon 1998/Back To The Future/Back to Chicago*— will be held September 2-6, at the Swissotel in Chicago. Contact: **Karen Krull**, Chair, at ☎(708) 422-1214 (TTY), ☎(708) 422-1213 (Voice), ❐(815) 789-4459 FAX or ❖GottaBeKK@aol.com (E-mail). Check ALDA's Website: ✷www.alda.org. Registration information is in the **National ALDA Newsletter**. Or contact ALDA Chicago, P.O. Box 785, Bedford Park, IL 60499.

➨ The Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness will hold its 28th Annual Conference, *Expanding Horizons: A Peak into the 21st Century*, at the Radisson Hotel in Asheville, North Carolina, November 1-4. Contact: **Terry Kemp**, NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, P.O. Box 26053, Raleigh, N.C. 27611 or call ☎(919) 733-5924 (TTY) or ☎(919) 733-3364 (Voice).

➨ The *Sixth International Conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research* (TISLR 98) will be held November 12-15. Contact: **Mike Kemp**, Department Chair, TISLR 98 Abstracts, Department of ASL, Linguistics, and Interpretation, Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002 (USA). Accepted papers must be submitted by October 1. Communications about the conference, including registration, lodging, and program information, are being handled via the conference Website: ✷http://www.gallaudet.edu/~aslweb/tislr98/ .❖info_tislr@gallua.gallaudet.edu.

➨ *The First International Conference on Deaf Education & Technology: "Tools for the 21st Century,"* will be held November 17-22, in conjunction with Deaf Awareness Week, in Bermuda. Contact: **Jennifer Jeffers-Grant**, Chair, 1st International Conference on Deafness, P.O. Box 1749, Hamilton HM GX, Bermuda; ☎❐(441) 238-8116 (TTY/FAX); ❖jeffers@ibl.bm.

➨ The 28th *Quadrennial Convention of the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf* will be held at Buena Vista Palace at Walt Disney Village World. near Orlando, Florida, July 22-24, 1999. Contacts: Convention Chair **Doris Berman**, ☎(954) 720-5619 (TTY) or ❐(954) 721-8852 (FAX); **Manny Golden**, ☎(904) 797-3817 (TTY) or ❐(904) 794-1679 (FAX).

➨ Florida Association of the Deaf will host the NAD Region III Conference at Sea Turtle Inn (One Ocean Blvd., Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville, FL 32233) from November 12-14, 1999. States represented are: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Contact: **Alexander Fleischman**, 4960 E. Sabal Palm Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33319; ☎(954) 977-7887 (TTY); ❐(954) 984-9198 (FAX).

WHAT "NEVER AGAIN!" MEANS TO US

Deaf People in Hitler's Europe (1933-1945) was held June 21-24 at the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center. It was jointly sponsored by Gallaudet University and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

In a report forwarded to us by Ray Luczak, **Barbara Kannapell** wrote:

I was overwhelmed by the powerful testimonies of [the] living Deaf witnesses who survived the Holocaust. The climax for me was a panel of four Deaf survivors from Hungary.

I was struck to learn that the idea of reducing or preventing the growth of "undesirable people," including Deaf people, by voluntary or forced sterilizations started in the U.S.A. in the early 1900s. This was called *eugenics*.° [U.S.] physicians during that time were enthusiastic about the idea of preventing the birth of "undesirable" people, which included Deaf people. The Nazis adopted the idea of eugenics for preventing or eliminating "undesirable" people in the 1930s and 1940s. Mentally-ill [and mentally-retarded inmates of] hospitals and asylums were killed [first]. The definition of "undesirables" [was expanded to] include Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, disabled people, and led to the murder of 6 million Jews, a total of 11 million people, certainly including Deaf people.

It is important to note that the Deaf community in Germany initially supported the Nazi idea[l], and members volunteered for sterilization and served as members of a Nazi military organization, until in 1933 the Nazis decided that Deaf people could not serve anymore.

Toward the end of the conference, Dr. **Ben Bahan**, Chair of Gallaudet's Deaf Studies Department, was one of the plenary speakers. He shared with us his views of how Deaf people are seen as sub-human in a reductionist view. Throughout history, physicians have classified Deaf people as sub-human.

For example, in 1998 he and a colleague gave a talk on Deaf people's views on cochlear implants at a physicians' conference in Miami, Florida. A doctor in the audience jumped up and challenged Ben, saying that his focus was on the hair cells inside deaf people's ears and he could not see what this had to do with Deaf people as a linguistic and

cultural minority.

This hit me hard. Could history repeat itself? The American medical system is again threatening to reduce the number of Deaf people through cochlear implants and genetic engineering. I have heard more and more stories: urging Deaf people who applied for SSI or something else to have cochlear implants; doctors advising a Deaf couple who wanted to get married to see a genetic counselor. We need to educate physicians through medical schools and conventions that we are Deaf people with our own language and culture! I propose that the NAD set up a conference where medical people and Deaf people have dialogue about cochlear implants and genetic engineering.

In any case, we cannot be like the Deaf people in Nazi Germany who colluded° with their own [destroyers] by voluntarily being sterilized, or by reporting other Deaf people to the Nazis. We Deaf people need to organize ourselves and present a strong, informed, united community to the public and the medical system. We need to educate hearing parents of Deaf children and do a much better job of public relations about our community, our language, and our culture.

colluded: (verb) secretly cooperated in a crime; acted together, especially in secret, or made a secret agreement, for a criminal purpose.

A note on eugenics

Eugenics is the study of hereditary improvement by genetic control; of improving a race, population, or society by controlling reproduction—encouraging "superior" people to have children and discouraging or preventing "inferior" people from reproducing. This was a popular philosophy in the U.S. during early decades of the 20th century, and led to such abuses as the widespread castration of black male inmates of mental hospitals and the forced sterilizations of lower-class women who were considered "social degenerates" by the state.

The Nazis carried eugenics one step further—not merely preventing "undesirables" (including deaf people) from having children, but by "euthanizing" them.

■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■

★ ★ ★ TV ★ ★ ★

A NEW CABLE-MOVIE? PASS THE POPCORN!

His Bodyguard, a USA Pictures Original, premiered on July 22 as part pf USA Network's "Erase the Hate Campaign." It aired again July 25 and August 1.

Storyline: As Sam (**Anthony Natale**) works alone after hours at the high-tech big-engineering firm his father owns, criminals break into the building, easily avoiding the ultra-efficient security system. They steal an experimental and potentially lucrative medication, and Sam sees them on the way out. Unfortunately, they see him too and know he can identify them.

The firm's security chief, Garrett (**Robert Guillaume**), assigns police-academy graduate Jenny (**Mitzi Kapture**), who knows a little sign language, to serve as a full-time companion for Sam's protection. Jenny moves into his apartment and, as they spend time together, learning to communicate, they begin to feel something for each other. When Sam confides about money problems his father and the company are having, Jenny feels compelled to mention this to Garrett, but immediately regrets the decision when Sam realizes they are now investigating his father for the crime.

The criminals, intending to kill Sam, track the two down to his apartment, but they manage to escape, amid gunfire, to a deaf school where Sam used to teach. Jenny notices that everyone at the school speaks, and questions Sam's choice to not use his voice. He gets angry as he describes the pitying, disgusted look "hearing people" get on their faces when a deaf person speaks.

In an effort to clear Sam's father, they go online to look through competing companies' personnel files, hoping they will find the men who are after them. They can't find what they are looking for and Jenny calls to update Garrett, leaving a message, including their location, with Al, one of her co-workers.

When Jenny sees Al at the school she doesn't make the connection—until Sam also sees the other men and the two rush into the school to escape. A shootout occurs on the roof but Jenny freezes when the opportunity to shoot arises. Sam and Jenny manage to escape and head for her parent's cabin to hide out. She confesses to Sam the reasons for her inability to shoot as well as her bad marriage. When they arrive at the cabin, they make love and Sam finally uses his voice to tell her he loves her.

Meanwhile, Garrett helps the criminals once again and they arrive at the cabin where another shootout ensues—this one resulting in Garrett being killed and Jenny realizing that he was in on the break-in the whole time. Jenny eventually finds the courage to use her gun and the nightmare ends. Jenny becomes the new head of security and a "vocal" Sam returns to work, only this time during the day with everyone else.

Closeups: A native of Toronto, Anthony Natale first wanted to be an actor in high school, when ***Grease*** first came out (1978). Being deaf, he was at a disadvantage with uncaptioned movies. He came across a pop-up book about **Grease**, and took it with him to follow the action. Right away, he knew he wanted "to be an actor like John Travolta." He says he was the class clown in school, and would have become an actor whether he was deaf or hearing.

The handsome and funny Natale is known to moviegoers as the guy in the elevator during the pivotal scene from ***Jerry Maguire***, signing "You complete me" to his partner. He starred as the adult Cole in ***Mr. Holland's Opus,*** and was also in ***Children of a Lesser God***, ***House of Cards***, and ***Listen***

Carefully. He will soon be seen in the suspense thriller ***Two Shades of Blue***, starring with **Rachel Hunter**, **Eric Roberts**, **Gary Busey**, and **Marlee Matlin**, and in the video version of the new ***City of Angels***.

On television, Natale has appeared in such series as ***Seventh Heaven***, ***Ellen***, and ***Beauty & The Beast,*** and has performed in numerous theatrical productions including ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest***, ***West Side Story***, ***The Red Shoes***, ***The Greatest Show on Earth***, ***Godspell***, ***Fiddler on the Roof***, ***Oliver***, and ***Alice in Wonderland***. He has also been seen in the delightful Pizza Hut commercial in which two deaf people connect over the Internet, and don't know until they meet in person that the other is also deaf.

Natale is also the star of ***How to Talk to a Person Who Can't Hear***, the first video made to teach sign language to the general public that has garnered awards from the U.S. International Film & Video Festival and a Young Artists Award. He counts among his hobbies foreign films, Rollerblading, and running, and absolutely loves sushi.

Bill Pugin served as Technical Advisor for all sign-related issues in ***His Bodyguard***. He was born in Hawaii, a Navy brat who lived all over the country. His first love was dance until a back injury sidelined him, but not for long. He was a prolific child actor in musical theater, and studied theater arts at Georgia Southwestern College. But his close relationship with his older deaf sister, Mary Anne, inspired him to incorporate his knowledge of sign language into his acting. He worked for the National Captioning Institute, and eventually became the performance interpreter at The Kennedy Center and The Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.

Pugin then moved to Los Angeles, and parlayed those two interests into his current business, The Sign Language Company, carving a unique niche in Hollywood. His first major broadcast project involved working with **Terrylene Sacchetti** on ***Beauty and the Beast***. That led to other shows including ***Hunter***, ***Santa Barbara***, ***The Pretender***, ***Outer Limits***, and ***Picket Fences***.

As often as possible, Pugin still keeps his hand in acting, and has appeared on screen as Marlee Matlin's interpreter in ***Reasonable Doubts***, as a sign instructor for monkeys in ***Congo***, and other roles. (Pugin was cast as a series regular for a deaf storyline on UPN's ***Damon***, but the plot was scratched. He says, "Having a regular deaf character on a sitcom would be a definite mark of progress for Hollywood."

The Sign Language Company works with dramas, sitcoms, commercials, and movies, and Bill has worked as a tutor and interpreter for the likes of **Meryl Streep** (***The River Wild***), **Elizabeth Taylor**, **Ann-Margret**, and many others. Whenever any project involves signing, he gets called, and has worked on ***The Indian in the Cupboard***, ***The Baby-sitters' Club***, and ***Jerry Maguire*** (with Anthony Natale, who had a bit part).

Pugin's talents are not limited to signing and acting. He is musically gifted as well, and performed his cabaret numbers this summer at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel's Cinegrill. He completed his formal training in interpreting sign language at Gallaudet University, where his sister is Executive Director of the Gallaudet University Alumni Association.

For ***His Bodyguard***, Pugin tutored star Mitzi Kapture in signing, starting work with her before production started. He was on the set throughout production, finding and working with the many deaf children who were also part of the cast.

✏ **Editors' note:** The original USA Network release contained the offensive term "deaf and mute": "As deaf and mute Sam (Anthony Natale) works alone after hours at the high-tech big-engineering firm his father owns. . ." It also described Natale as "hearing-impaired" and used that term as a synonym for "deaf."

★ ★ ★ THEATER ★ ★ ★

THE ANGEL COMES THROUGH—AGAIN

NTID has received a $50,000 grant from the Nathan Cummings Foundation to support two performing-arts projects: "Beyond Whispers," the 1998 American Deaf Play Creators Festival; and Sunshine Too, NTID's traveling troupe of student performers/interns.

The Cummings Foundation has already supported the critically-acclaimed Play Creators Festival, which provides deaf artists with an environment in which they can create and produce original works in ASL. The Festival will develop and present two plays during Fall 1998, and offer seminars and workshop productions to provide professional-development opportunities for playwrights, actors, and audiences. All performances will be accessible to both deaf and hearing audiences.

Grant monies for Sunshine Too will be used for artistic development and a Western-states tour. The award-winning Sunshine Too company is composed of three deaf and three hearing performers. For the past 17 years, Sunshine Too has toured throughout the nation and several foreign countries, promoting Deaf awareness and culture through engaging performances and educational workshops. All performances and workshops of Sunshine Too are conducted in ASL and spoken English, making them accessible to all audiences.

Background: The Nathan Cummings Foundation supports ethnically and geographically diverse community-based arts-education initiatives that have strong artistic merit and that impart life skills as well as art-based experiences. It supports organizations that provide unique services and educational-outreach programs that explore the arts and promote understanding across cultures, building bridges between groups.

★ ★ ★ ON DISPLAY ★ ★ ★

SHARING THE EXCITEMENT OF HISTORY

Nine proud members of the exhibit-design pose in the first-floor IHS gallery. Hearing team members are standing. From left: Martin Douglas, Faith Revell, Elaine Radich, Susan Sutton, and Margaret Bierlein. The Deaf team members, who are kneeling to make the exhibit panel more visible to readers, are Donald Tinsley, Teresa Schmidt, Deka Kloepfer, and Steven Stultz. Not shown: Michael Reis and Jerry Cooper. (Courtesy of Michael Reis)

The history of a remarkable Hoosier community is examined in the Indiana Historical Society's exhibition *Growing Up Deaf in Indiana: The History of the Indiana School for the Deaf.* It opened to the public on Monday, September 22, 1997, in the rotunda of the Indiana Statehouse, in observance of Deaf Awareness Week. From the Statehouse, the exhibit moved to the IHS first-floor gallery September 29, 1997, through January 16, 1998. Following its display at the IHS, the exhibit traveled to the Gallaudet University Archives and was displayed from February 23 through March 31—during the big "DPN-10" celebration.

A collaborative venture among the IHS, Indiana School for the Deaf, and the Indiana Deaf School Alumni Association, the interactive exhibition includes photographs, manuscripts, videos, interviews with ISD alumni, and other materials from IHS and ISD. Since its founding in 1843, ISD has provided academic and social excellence for deaf and hard-of-hearing students from throughout Indiana through a bilingual/bicultural environment at its campus at 1200 E. 42nd Street, just north of the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis.

The exhibit, which also explores ASL, is aimed at increasing the public's awareness about and understanding of the Hoosier Deaf community by dispelling myths and prejudice about deaf people.

"In the world, some minorities value their church/temple/mosque as their cultural bedrock," said **Michael Reis**, ISD alumnus and advisor for the exhibit. "Some nationalities look at their homeland as the rationale for their existence. Some groups support and nourish community centers to maintain their collective identity. However, it is difficult to find a minority group that uses its school as the heart of its community. That is what makes deaf people so unique."

In 1842, a Vermont teacher, **William Willard**, came to Indiana with a mission to establish a school for the deaf. At age 6, Willard had lost his hearing during a bout with "spotted fever" (spinal meningitis). While attending the Hartford Asylum (where he was **Laurent Clerc's** pupil), he and a friend, the deaf pioneer and newspaper editor **Edmund Booth**, discussed establishing a colony of deaf people somewhere "out West." After graduation, Willard taught at the Ohio School for the Deaf.

Willard, then 33, his wife **Eliza**, and their two oldest daughters moved to Indiana, where he established a private school for deaf children. A "semi-mute" with some hearing and excellent speech, Willard traveled throughout the state on horseback at his own expense gathering names of deaf children. On October 1, 1843, he and Eliza opened a private educational institution in Indianapolis with 12 pupils and became the first deaf persons in America to establish a permanent school for the deaf.

Impressed by Willard and his accomplishments, the Indiana General Assembly approved a bill making his small school a state institution. The Indiana Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, as the school was known until 1907, had its first permanent campus in 1851. Located on Washington Street and State Avenue (now the site of Willard Park), the campus included two handsome stucco buildings. Problems with this—foul smells from a nearby stockyard, noise from railroad tracks, and heavy traffic on Washington Street—caused the state to move the school to its present East 42nd Street campus. Along with the move, the institution was renamed the Indiana State School for the Deaf by the state legislature.

The exhibition is available for bookings by nonprofit and other educational and historical agencies throughout Indiana. To reserve a date for the exhibit, contact **Margaret Bierlein**, IHS education division assistant, at ☎(317) 233-5659, ❐(317) 233-3109 (FAX), ☎(317) 233-6615 (TTY), or e-mail ❖mbierlein@statelib.lib.in.us (E-mail).

For information about ISD's **Sesquicentennial Yearbook**, whose creation inspired the exhibit, contact Michael Reis at ❖mikereis@aol.com.

➳ See July 1994 cover story and update in our 10th Anniversary issue.

OUR STORY HITS THE SMITHSONIAN

How do we share our story—the story of Deaf America and deaf people—with those who have no understanding of d/Deaf life? How do we take a complex history and condense it to an easy-to-grasp visual presentation? **Jack R. Gannon** and his team have been spending a great deal of time and energy pondering these questions for an exhibition on d/Deaf life.

As curator, Gannon is responsible for the content and presentation of the exhibit *History Through Deaf Eyes*, which is being planned and sponsored by Gallaudet University with an anticipated first opening at the National Museum of American History, part of the Smithsonian Institution. The project will place almost 200 years of d/Deaf history alongside what is commonly called American history.

What it is:

Using objects and images collected by persons, organizations, and schools for deaf children, this exhibition will illustrate the d/Deaf life. Experiences common to all—family life, education, and work—will be used to show the different ways deaf people see themselves, communicate, employ and adapt available technology, and determine their own futures. Finally, this exhibition provides another way of looking at our shared American history.

Focus areas include the founding of early schools for deaf children and the formation of a Deaf community; the development of oral education in America, including the work of Alexander Graham Bell; deaf people's contributions during World Wars I and II; and the civil-rights era and its implications for d/Deaf people. Contemporary presentations on technology and activities in schools, at work, and at home will ensure that visitors have a current perspective.

The exhibition content will be organized chronologically and thematically, and is designed to expand the visitors' view of American history. In addition to issues of development of identity, and language as a cohesive and divisive force, the exhibition will look at the impact technology has had on the lives of deaf people. It will also present struggles for self-determination of both the cultural community and the deaf population and will stress the shared struggles.

What it is not:

As a history exhibition, it is not about what will be; it is about what has been and what is happening now. It is not "a deafness show." It is not about ways to cure the condition of deafness. It is a social history, a story of people who are d/Deaf, a community they created by choice and by necessity, and the struggles and collaborations of both deaf and Deaf people with those who share community values and those who don't.

Said Gannon: "It is not the intent of this exhibition to change people's minds about deaf education or use of technology or any other facet of life. Rather, this is an exhibition of our history, and deaf people, those who use American Sign Language and those who don't, have an inextricably entwined history."

Eye on the Audience:

While the exhibition aims to incorporate the various perspectives on deaf life, most of the visitors will not be at all familiar with the struggles—internal or external—of the cultural-linguistic community or the larger deaf population. Even the word "deaf' has different meanings and in attempts to clarify, great care is taken over when to use "deaf," or "Deaf," or the cultural shorthand of "d/Deaf." Each editorial route has its limitations and is sure to offend someone. For the visitor to understand that level of insider information will be a great challenge. Said Gannon: "We strive to place our history in the broader perspective of American life, to provide the context needed to understand and the points of interest needed to compel people to want to learn."

Deaf and hard-of-hearing people will find this history resonates with their own life experiences. Members of cultural minorities will find the issues of language use, civil rights, legislated equality, and economic opportunity familiar and compelling. Since the principal target audience will be hearing people who have had little contact with deaf persons, this social history of d/Deaf people will parallel the more familiar American historical context to make the lesser known history interesting, relevant, and accessible to all.

Controversy and Consensus:

History Through Deaf Eyes will be a highly visible presentation of our collective history. Perhaps that is why so many people care so deeply about what is included in the exhibition. The project has not been without controversy. Hundreds of letters of concern were sent to the National Museum of American History to sway the content of the exhibition. Indeed, the thrust of the exhibition has changed. Early drafts focused on the identity, language, and struggles of the Deaf cultural-linguistic community within the context of the larger deaf population. Current layouts present Deaf and deaf experiences in line with American historical references. Said Gannon: "If I had been plowing it would be like hitting a boulder, altering the direction and plowing on will make it possible to bring this project to fruition. Most of us are aware of differences of opinion on how deaf children should be taught, ways of signing, ways of identifying oneself, and use of technology. These diverse perspectives have existed for centuries and I very much doubt they will ever change—at least not in my lifetime. I think most of us will agree that we are all entitled to our opinions. Learning more about differing viewpoints and the historical context of their development will broaden each of our perspectives."

How can you help?

Think about the "material culture" you have that expresses your d/Deaf experience. What is most important about your experience to include? What objects, photographs or documents do you have or know of that might reflect your experi-

ence as a d/Deaf person? Do you have photographs from school? Letters from home? Did you collect banners or buttons from a d/Deaf protest? Did you keep clothing marked for common laundering? What stories do you have that reflect the events of our nation as well as your life? What jokes do you know that reflect d/Deaf values? Consider making a cultural inventory and let Jack Gannon know what you discover.

He says, "This shared history is rich and complicated, with impassioned words and conflicting ideals. To be a true and accurate history, this exhibition will recognize the complexity and ambiguity that we all know is part of life. But this presentation need not be polarizing and must not be the battleground for opposing perspectives on deaf education and d/Deaf life. History is important to all of us. The more we learn about our history the better we understand who we are. This knowledge often leads to an appreciation of where we have been, and better understanding of 'others' and gives direction for our future."

A booklet on *History Through Deaf Eyes* is in print. For a copy, contact the Public Relations Office at Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, ☎(202) 651-5505 (TTY), ❐(202) 651-5704 (FAX), or ❖JLBergey@gallua.gallaudet.edu (E-mail).

★ ★ ★ CAPTIONING ★ ★ ★

AN INTERNATIONAL MENU

The National Captioning Institute has purchased a minority share of the European Captioning Institute, a U.K. company that specializes in the closed-captioning of home videos for European release and in international-language subtitling.

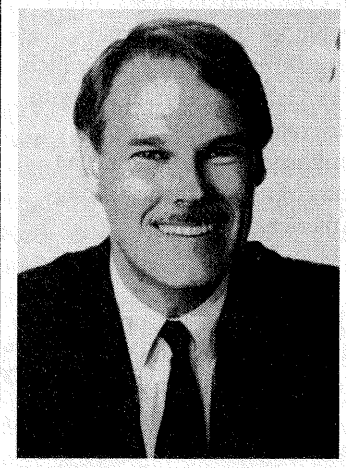
NCI and ECI are focusing their marketing efforts on expanding their captioning and subtitling services for DVD (digital versatile disk) releases and European cable programming. The new partnership enables the two companies to caption and subtitle in a growing number of European languages, including Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Italian. Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, and Welsh. Future capabilities will include Eastern European and Pacific Rim languages.

"We are very pleased to be partnering with ECI, " said **Betty Hallman**, NCI's Vice President of Marketing. "Combining NCI's leadership in captioning technology with ECI's international language translation expertise makes this an excellent match between the two companies."

Jonathan Lewis, ECI's Managing Director, said, "We are very excited about this venture. The combination of ECI's London office and reputation in Europe along with NCI's great relationships with American programmers makes a powerful team."

ECI was established in 1995 to expand the VideoCaption service introduced by NCI in the United Kingdom in 1992 to make home-video programming accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing people. ECI now provides closed-captioning and subtitling services in the U.K., Germany, and the Nordic countries. ECI also specializes in international-language translations for DVD releases in Europe.

NCI GETS A NEW C.O.O.



William D. Merriam, NCI's new COO.

William D. Merriam is the new Chief Operating Officer of the National Captioning Institute. His appointment was effective May 18.

Merriam holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University, School of Business and did graduate work in film and television at the Southern Methodist University, Meadows School of Fine Arts. From 1980 to 1993, Merriam served in various executive positions at Turner Broadcasting System, including 5 years as Executive Vice President of Turner Entertainment Networks. In the early 1990s, he served as the Co-Chairman of NCI's Cable Captioning Consortium, a cooperative effort between cable programmers and operators to increase the amount and variety of captioned programming available on basic cable. In his most recent role as the President of WDMerriam & Associates, Merriam provided executive-management consulting expertise to major corporations such as Cincinnati Bell Information Systems, Software AG in Frankfurt, Germany, and Alcon Surgical in Irvine, California.

He relocated to the Washington, D.C. area from Atlanta with his wife, **Gail**.

VITAC ACQUIRES BAY AREA CAPTIONING

On June 1, VITAC announced that it had acquired Bay Area Captioning, Inc., of San Ramon, California, in the San Francisco Bay area. BAC is known for providing quality sports captioning and employing some of the best captioners in the world.

With this acquisition, VITAC is also back in the local-news-captioning arena for the first time since 1988. BAC brings with them the captioning of all live news for their client, KRON-TV, an NBC affiliate in the San Francisco area.

"We are pleased that the respected former Bay Area Captioning team will be joining the VITAC team," said **Joseph R. Karlovits**, President of VITAC. "They bring with

them extensive captioning, experience, and expertise as well as an exceptional clientele."

This acquisition is worth over $500, 000 in annual programming. VITAC's sports clientele will now include the captioning of games for the San Francisco Giants, the Oakland A's, and the Madison Square Garden Network (New York Knicks and New York Rangers). VITAC, which provided captions for last year's World Series and this year's Super Bowl, currently captions over 50 hours of sports programming per week for clients such as ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, Fx/FOX Sports Net, and TNN. As a result of the acquisition, about 245 games will be added to VITAC's action-packed schedule.

KRON-TV will add 30 more hours of news programming per week to VITAC's schedule (1560 hours per year). VITAC currently captions over 230 hours per week of news and entertainment programs, including some of the most-watched programs on TV—***The Today Show***, ***CNN Headline News***, ***The Rosie O'Donnell Show***, and ***Entertainment Tonight***.

Mary Daniel, former President of BAC, and her husband, **Kevin Daniel**, former Vice President, moved to VITAC's Pittsburgh headquarters in mid-June as full-time stenocaptioners for the VITAC team. In addition, three of BAC's former employees, including **Kathleen Johnson**, **Gale Muehlbauer**, and **Kathy Robson**, joined VITAC to caption programs in the San Francisco area. The Daniels and each of their former BAC employees are Certified Realtime Reporters. VITAC now employs over 130 people nationally.

"We're pleased that we could bring VITAC's quality services to Bay Area Captioning's clients, and we're looking forward to becoming part of VITAC's team of stenocaptioners,'' said Mary Daniel.

★ TELECOMMUNICATIONS ★

FCC PLANS NEW TRS RULES; YOUR INPUT WANTED

On May 14, the Federal Communications Commission proposed ways to enhance the quality of existing TRS and expand those services for better use by deaf users and those with speech disabilities.

The following item highlights proposals included in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that was adopted May 14, 1998. The proposed rules (FCC 98-90) were released on May 20. The comment deadline was July 20, but the reply comment deadline is September 14. This report shows what the Commission has tentatively concluded.

The NPRM itself can be accessed from the FCC Website in text format at:

✷http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/Notices/1998/fcc98090.txt

or in WordPerfect format at:

✷http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/Notices/1998/fcc98090.wp

Martha E. Contee, Chief of the Public Service Division at FCC's Office of Public Affairs, says, "If you do not have access to our Website, please tell us and we will gladly mail you a copy." The address is FCC, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Report No. CC 98-15
*** COMMON CARRIER ACTION ***
May 14, 1998
Commission Proposes Ways to Improve Telecommunications Relay Services, Extend Services to More People With Disabilities (CC Docket No. 98-67)

The Commission today [May 14] proposed ways to enhance the quality of existing telecommunications relay services (TRS) and expand those services for better use by the 2.5 million Americans with speech disabilities. Today's proposals are intended to promote access to telecommunications and improve the overall effectiveness of both interstate and intrastate TRS programs.

TRS enables people with hearing and speech disabilities to communicate with people who use voice telephones. The service typically involves a three-way call between a person using a text telephone, an operator—known as a Communications Assistant—and a person using a voice telephone. The Communications Assistant relays messages between the callers. TRS, which has been in existence for more than a decade, is currently available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and operates at no extra cost to the caller.

Among the proposals included in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted today:

• The Commission tentatively concluded that the costs of speech-to-speech (STS) services and video-relay interpreting (VRI) service should be recoverable from the TRS Fund. STS allows people with speech disabilities to speak on the telephone and to be understood by the person being called through the use of a specially-trained Communications Assistant who relays the conversation. VRI uses videoconferencing equipment to allow callers with hearing disabilities to communicate by sign language or other forms of visual communication to the Communications Assistant who relays the conversation.

• The Commission tentatively concluded that all common carriers providing voice transmission services must ensure that STS services are available throughout their service areas within two years of adoption of final rules in this proceeding.

• The Commission tentatively concluded that it should strengthen the current TRS minimum standards, including its speed-of-answer rules.

The Commission tentatively concluded that it should amend the TRS enforcement rules to improve the Commission's

oversight of certified state TRS programs and its ability to compel compliance with the federal mandatory minimum standards for TRS.

Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, in part, to allow individuals with disabilities to participate fully in American society. To achieve this goal in the telecommunications context, Title IV of the ADA requires the Commission to ensure that telecommunications relay services are available, to the extent possible and in the most efficient manner, to persons with hearing or speech disabilities in the United States. Without this legal obligation, 28 million Americans might be deprived of the fundamental ability to use the telephone. Today's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeks to advance the goals of the ADA by extending the benefits of advances in telecommunications to Americans that might otherwise be excluded because of their disability.

Action by the Commission May 14, 1998, by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 98-90). Chairman **Kennard**, Commissioners **Ness**, **Furchtgott-Roth**, **Powell**, and **Tristani**.

ARIZONA RELAY HONORED

On April 21, MCI received the 1998 Pride of the City Award from Tempe Mayor **Neil Giuliano**, for its Arizona Telecommunications Relay Service. The award is given annually to an outstanding disability-related individual or organization. MCI provides TRS to the residents of Arizona from its relay center in Tempe.

The MCI Arizona Relay Center was nominated for the award by **Stephanie Ashcroft**, Special Assistant, Office of Governor **Jane Dee Hull**. Ashcroft nominated MCI for its approach for accommodating every type of disability in innovative ways.

The Relay Center is located on a well-traveled bus route and close to Arizona State University, which has a Disabled Student Resource Center. The building was designed to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. For example, the aisles between the workstations are wide enough for two wheelchair users to pass at the same time.

The Relay Center also takes in to consideration the needs of employees who are disabled. Consoles are outfitted with Braille for blind communication assistants. Visual-signaling devices, such at TTYs and strategically placed "traffic lights" to indicate call volume, are for employees who are deaf. The workstations have adjustable keyboard trays and worktables so they're accessible for people in wheelchairs. MCI also provides interpreters during staff and scheduling meetings.

The Mayor's Awards are present annually to recognize outstanding achievements in employment of people with disabilities in Tempe. It is hoped that such recognition will stimulate others to recognize the positive opportunities represented in hiring people with disabilities.

★ ★ ★ SPORTS ★ ★ ★

NSO MERGER: CLOSING THE RIFT

The United States of America Deaf Basketball (USADB) and American Basketball Association of the Deaf (ABAD) have agreed, in principle, to merge as one national sports organization (NSO). The agreement was made "in the best interests of the deaf and hard-of-hearing basketball community." The NSO merger is designed to provide a comprehensive national basketball program for deaf and hard-of-hearing people, under the auspices of the USA Deaf Sports Federation (formerly AAAD).

The agreement was reached in a meeting held at Furama Hotel near Los Angeles International Airport held June 12th to 14th. Participants included: Dr. **Frank Turk** (Moderator), Dr. **Lawrence Fleischer** (former AAAD President and "Resource Person"), **David Stout** (National Deaf Sports Association President), **Benny Maucere** (USADB President), **Craig Opheikens** (ABAD Commissioner), **Mark Corson** (USADB Commissioner), and **Ira Hendon** and **Ray Kilthau** (ABAD Representatives).

David Hamilton, athlete and flag bearer of the U.S. Team at the 1997 World Games for the Deaf in Copenhagen, also slated to participate, was unable to attend due to an illness in his family.

USADSF President **Bobbie Beth Scoggins** commended the participants for their collective effort on behalf of the U.S. Deaf Sports community and made an official statement: "The merge will bring harmony to deaf and hard-of-hearing basketball players in the United States. The USADSF will continue to support efforts that allow the USADB and ABAD to complete the process of unification."

Representatives of the USADSF and ABAD met on June 27 to work out the final details of the unanimous agreement. Details were not yet available.

HAVING A FIELD DAY!

Some of the most important lessons taking place at Mill Neck Manor are not only in the classroom, but also on the playing field.

Through Metro Field Day, the students at Mill Neck Manor get a chance to compete in different events with students from other schools for the deaf.

May 20 marked the 15th annual Metro Field Day competition, which was held at Mill Neck Manor. Seven schools participated this year: Cleary, Lexington, St. Joseph's, St. Francis, JHS 47, and Fanwood. Schools take turns hosting the event each year. Games are played during the school day and ribbons are awarded for participation, and first, second, and third places.

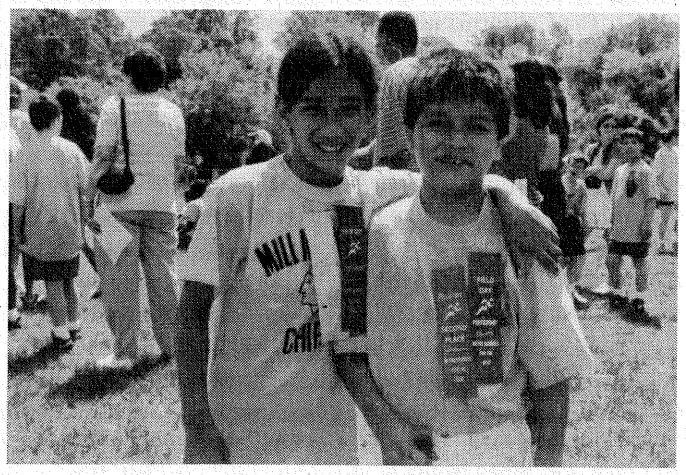
Students, ages 8-14, competed in the bean-bag toss, potato-

Photo: (L-R) High School teacher Kathleen Cestari stands with students Monica Lobasso and Christina Laurice during the Games.

sack race, shuttle relay, balloon-break relay, 50-yard dash, obstacle-course race and the 200-yard relay.

Tim Sorrentino, Physical Education Teacher at Mill Neck Manor, said, "Metro Field Day is an exciting event in which students from all schools experience fun, competition and friendships."

WINNING MORE THAN MEDALS



Mill Neck Manor students Judy Rodriguez and Henry Sorto take a break between events at Metro Field Day.

On May 29, 22 high-school student-athletes from Mill Neck Manor School for Deaf Children participated in the Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged at the Mitchel Athletic Complex in Uniondale, New York. As a school, the student-athletes earned 34 gold medals (1st place), 14 silver medals (2nd place), 14 bronze medals (3rd place) and 7 participation ribbons.

Mill Neck Manor teacher **Sheila Amato** said that four students demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field events this year. **J.J. Rivera**, **Akash Issac**, and **Angel Alvarado** all won gold medals in the 100-meter track, discus, soft discus, and precision-throw events. **Donna Smith** won gold medals in the 40-meter track, soft discus, distance kick, and precision-throw events.

Background: The Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged is a program of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. It is designed for fun and success. Each athlete competes in his or her own age group, physical disability, and ability. The focus is on providing a means to develop confidence and a positive self-image by achieving one's personal best.

Since its inception in 1985, the Games for the Physically Challenged have grown from a single annual competition on Long Island to a comprehensive statewide program of competitions, clinics, fundraisers, and disability-awareness workshops.

★ MEDICAL NEWS & NOTES ★

USHER'S SYNDROME: CRACKING THE CODE

A team of researchers from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Boys Town National Research Hospital has located the gene responsible for Usher syndrome Type IIa—the leading cause of combined deafness and blindness in the industrialized world.

The discovery, which could lead to an eventual cure for the genetic disorder, is reported in the June 12 edition of **Science.** "This is not only an important step forward in our understanding of disorders that affect both hearing and vision, but it will provide further insight into the physiology of vision and hearing," said **Janos Sumegi**, D.Sc., M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Pathology/Microbiology at UNMC.

About four in 100,000 people suffer from Usher's syndrome, a genetic disorder that causes moderate to severe hearing loss and the juvenile onset of *retinitis pigmentosa*—one of the most common causes of blindness. It was first identified as a genetic syndrome by clinician **Charles Usher** in 1935. Of the almost 16,000 deaf and blind people in the United States, more than half are believed to have Usher's syndrome.

During the past 10 years, genetic studies have been conducted to localize the genes responsible for Usher's syndrome. As a result, three types of the disorder have been identified: Type I, Type II, and Type III. Usher's syndrome Type IIa is the most common type.

The identification of the Type IIa gene is the result of a collaborative effort during the past six years between Boys Town National Research Hospital and UNMC. The first step in the gene identification process was to localize the chromosomal region where the gene responsible for the genetic disorder is located. This process was conducted at Boys Town

National Research Hospital under the direction of **William Kimberling**, Ph.D., Director Of Genetic Studies, with the help of research associates **Michael Weston**, M.S., and **Denise Hoover**, B.S.

Drs. Kimberling and Sumegi received funding support for this study through grants from the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communicative Disorders and the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

The second step in the gene-identification process was the physical isolation of the gene located on the chromosome 1. This process was conducted at UNMC by **James Eudy**, Ph.D., a research instructor in Pathology/Microbiology, with the assistance of **Sufang Yao**, research technologist in Pathology/Microbiology, under the direction of Dr. Sumegi.

Dr. Eudy, who has been working on the project for the past 3 years, used a variety of techniques—including DNA sequencing and computer-based analysis—to isolate the Type IIa gene.

This is the second gene found to cause Usher's syndrome. In 1995, Dr. Kimberling was part of a collaborative research group credited with finding the gene for Usher's syndrome Type I. Subsequent research studies have found that this gene encodes a protein called myosin VIIa. This protein is found in both photoreceptor cells in the retina and in hair cells in the inner ear. The hair cells have tiny hair-like fibers that help turn sound waves into electrical impulses that travel to the brain via the auditory nerve.

Current research under way at UNMC and Boys Town National Research Hospital is focused on understanding how the Usher's syndrome Type IIa protein functions.

Based upon the similarity of the predicted Usher syndrome Type IIa protein to other proteins, two hypotheses have been developed. The first hypothesis suggests that the Type IIa protein is similar to proteins that form the "packaging" around the cells, holding them in place and allowing them to communicate as a group. The second hypothesis suggests that the Type IIa protein is similar to a receptor—a protein that spans the cell membrane, communicating the external environment to the inside of the cell so it can adapt to changing needs.

The testing of these hypotheses through experimentation will allow the research team to learn how mutations in the gene cause deafness and blindness. "We now have the tools to research the pathology of the disease, which ultimately could lead to a cure," Dr. Eudy said.

NOW ON THE MARKET

On June 26, the Food and Drug Administration approved a new cochlear-implant system that can be used in children as young as 18 months.

Australian firm Cochlear Ltd.'s Nucleus 24 implant, combined with the ESPrit speech processor, has been in use in other countries for a year. Cochlear Corporation says that the new device has more stimulating electrodes than any other implant, enhancing the user's prospects of hearing sound and interpreting speech. The implant is the size of a behind-the-ear hearing aid and weighs less than 1/2 ounce.

Deaf advocate **Robert D. Traina** notified everyone on his mailing list about this, called for a rally, and added, "Damn those doctors!"

ADVENTURES WITH IMPLANT PUSHERS

An L.A. audiologist used SSDI review testing to try pushing cochlear implantson prelingually deafened adults. Is this legal?

*This report by **Paulette R. Caswell** of Los Angeles, has been circulating through the community.*

There is a situation occurring in Los Angeles about Social Security Continuing Disability Reviews. I would like to know if this same situation is happening in other parts of California, and/or in other states.

The cochlear-implant technology was approved 3 years ago for use in "prelingually deaf adults." *Also* 3 years ago, the Social Security Administration began doing "continuing disability reviews" for deaf people. In California, the agency that does those reviews is called the State of California Department of Social Services, Disability and Adult Programs Division (also known as the "Disability Evaluation Division"). The California agency then contracts with doctors.

Recently, two prelingually (born) profoundly deaf men, aged 30 and 46, were called to have their hearing checked by a letter from the "Disability Evaluation" people of the State of California. One receives SSI, and the other receives Social Security Disability Insurance benefits. Both of them were told that unless they went to the hearing-test appointments, their Social Security benefits would be terminated. Both of these men went to the hearing-test appointment. It was scheduled near downtown Los Angeles, with a Dr. **Jack Pulec,** of the Pulec Ear Clinic. First, the deaf persons received hearing tests from Dr. Pulec's audiologist daughter. Then Dr. Pulec called them into his office to discuss their medical history.

All of this so far is fine, under Social Security regulations. But *then*, Dr. Pulec began to tell them about cochlear implants, showed them an implant, and tried to force these two born-deaf persons to read and take home three brochures on the 22-channel Nucleus Cochlear Implant. One of the deaf men tried to politely say, "No, thank you, I don't want it," but Dr. Pulec kept on pressuring him to take the brochures and read them. After I heard this story, I went with the second deaf man, and, sure enough, Dr. Pulec showed him the cochlear implant, and made a major effort to get him to agree to read three brochures, and to seriously consider getting a cochlear implant.

For your information, I know a bit about cochlear implants, so I decided to tell Dr. Pulec, straight out, that a person who was born profoundly deaf, and who has not heard any sounds

for 30 or more years, is not a good candidate for a cochlear implant, and I asked him why he is trying to pressure prelingually, profoundly deaf people to get a cochlear implant.

✚ He admitted (and it also says in the brochure, with a research-report reference) that many years of deafness causes a degeneration of the hearing nerve, and an implant might not be effective.

✚ Further, he admitted that some causes of deafness that affect the hearing nerve and/or brainstem will make a person not eligible for an implant.

✚ Further, he admitted that a person born without sound awareness, who is now an adult, would need between *2-5 years* of intensive speech therapy, several times a week, to even get any kind of good use from an implant.

✚ When I challenged him as to who would pay for the implant (normally $30,000), and the speech therapy, etc., he had no answer.

NOW... Pay attention to this... the Cochlear Implant booklet says *clearly*:

1.) "Prelinguistically deafened adults with a profound loss bilaterally should be evaluated by experienced cochlear implant teams and have their candidacy checked on a case-by-case basis."

2.) "Prelinguistically deafened adults demonstrate limited benefits from a cochlear implant. Most improve in detection of sound, but only a few demonstrate improved lipreading after *extensive* training. Prelinguistically deafened adults who do not have functional oral speech and language and are not motivated to participate in rehabilitation, are more likely to become nonusers of the device than other adults."

3.) The Cued Speech method provides 100% accuracy for a deaf person to "visually hear" the sounds of a hearing speaker's voice. In comparison, the cochlear-implant brochure says that their implant only results in 25% recognition of speech in absolutely quiet environments, and much less ability to hear speech sounds in noisy environments.

4.) "Implantation of the device *will* result in *complete loss* of residual hearing in the implanted ear."

5.) The implant user must protect the implant from breakage and moisture. The implant cannot be used for swimming, or in activities that generate high-static electricity (trampolines, plastic slides, etc.), or in contact sports, or in scuba diving or anything that involves extreme pressure changes.

6.) The implant was approved in 1995 for *pre*-lingually (born or deaf by age 3-4), profoundly (90 dB or higher hearing loss), bilaterally (in both ears) deaf people.

Warning to all deaf and hard-of-hearing people who receive SSI and/or SSDI and/or other Social Security benefits, especially if you are receiving Medicaid or Medi-Cal benefits!

If you receive a letter telling you to go to a Continuing Disability Review, here is what the letter will say: "You are hereby notified that you need an examination to evaluate your disability claim under the Social Security Act." They will give you a name of a doctor, an address, and a date and time for your appointment.

If you cannot go to that appointment, you MUST call the phone number on that letter, and make other arrangements. If you miss two appointments, your benefits will stop. *This could mean that your medical coverage will stop, so be aware of this.*

It is evident, from the situation in Los Angeles, that these "continuing disability reviews" are an attempt to convince people to get cochlear implants, and *not* for the proper procedure of checking to see if a person is no longer disabled.

According to the former Social Security regulations, a "continuing disability review" is not permitted when a person is considered to be "permanently disabled." In the past, *all* born-deaf people, or people deafened in childhood, were automatically considered to be "permanently disabled," and they were not subject to "continuing disability reviews." It seems that the laws and regulations of Social Security and the State Disability Programs Offices have now changed. These people are trying to get *you* to get a cochlear implant, so you will no longer be "disabled."

Unfortunately, the statistics in the cochlear-implant brochures still prove that if you are born prelingually and profoundly deaf, or had this condition in early childhood, you will *still* be *deaf* even with a cochlear implant, and that you *still* will not get 100% of speech sounds with any kind of "implant," and you will *still* be disabled!

Please be aware that, although you must go to the government-ordered doctor appointments, you do *not* need to bring your hearing aids with you (especially if you can't clearly hear speech with your hearing aids), you *can* ask for an interpreter to be present, and you do *not* need to use your voice if you choose not to do so. You must take the audiology test and be honest about what you hear and what you don't hear, and you must give an accurate history of your deafness to the doctor (you can write this out in advance, if you want, and just give it to the doctor).

If the doctor gives you the cochlear-implant brochures, take them, and leave after the appointment is over. You do *not* need to make any further appointments with that doctor, and you can throw the brochures away as soon as you leave the office. There is absolutely *nothing* that anyone can legally do to force you to have a cochlear implant, so just listen to them, take the brochures, leave, and throw away the brochures.

It appears that the doctors who support cochlear implants have already gone to the government and they have managed to now have the government "call back" all of the people who are deaf, so these doctors can "see" and possibly "recommend" a cochlear implant. To me, this is *illegal*, as they have no real proof that the cochlear implant will work, and they have no authority to force anyone to get the implant. All they can do is to give you information, which the deaf community already has, and there is absolutely *no reason* to harass deaf people to go to yet another hearing test and disturb your regular schedules, just to give you "information" on cochlear implants that you don't want, and you don't need! If you agree, contact your State and Federal legislators and tell them your complaints and your concerns.

—Paulette R. Caswell

I have been advised that Social Security, Disability Evaluation Division, is removing Dr. Pulec from their list of audiologists. They confirmed that he should *not* be pushing any kind of assistive devices, cochlear or otherwise, at the Social Security examinations.

—**Richard Roehm III**/Deaf Activist

IF SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES, WATCH OUT FOR YOUR EARS!

A research team from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, say that people who "turn a deaf ear" to warnings about smoking may very well wind up deaf. In a new study of 3,758 residents of Beaver Dam, the researchers found that smokers were 70% more likely to become hard-of-hearing as they aged.

The researchers gave questionnaires and hearing tests to the participants, who ranged in age from 48 to 92. A loss of about 25 decibels or more—which would make it difficult to understand conversation in a noisy room—was considered to be "impaired hearing."

Reporting in the June 3 issue of the **Journal of the American Medical Association**, the researchers says the more a person smoked, the greater the hearing loss. People who smoked a pack a day for 40 years were 1.3 times as likely to be have diminished hearing capacity than those who smoked for less than a decade. Even people who never took a puff had more hearing loss if they lived with a smoker.

They say the study suggests that stopping smoking may help prevent loss of hearing that some believe is an inevitable consequence of growing older. Scientists estimate that about a third of people between the ages of 65 and 75 have lost some of their ability to hear.

The researchers don't know exactly what effect smoking has on hearing, but they speculate it may impair blood supplies to the ear or it may damage the hearing mechanism.

Beaver Dam was the site of another study on smoking that showed cigarette smokers had up to three times the risk of a blinding age-related degenerative eye disorder.

✏ From **Mara Bovsun's** *UPI Science News* report, "Smoking linked to deafness," June 2.

★★ AUDIOMETRICS ★★

B.H.I. BITS

BHI booth: booming business! The Better Hearing Institute booth was a popular stop for a steady flow of visitors to the 1998 AARP Biennial Convention in Minneapolis, June 1-4. International visitors and over 35,000 AARP members from throughout the United States enjoyed the convention's diverse educational programs, entertainment spectaculars, and star-studded guest list.

BHI joined three other national hearing-health organizations—the International Hearing Society, the American Tinnitus Association, and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association—in exhibiting educational materials about the options that are available to those with hearing loss and tinnitus.

Visitors to BHI's booth came with many questions about hearing loss and hearing aids. *Help Through Hearing Aids—A Guide to Today's Hearing Instruments* was the most popular handout, since it addresses many of the questions that prospective hearing-aid users want answered.

"The 1998 AARP Biennial Convention was one of the most successful meetings for BHI," said **Michele Hartlove**, Acting Executive Director. "We were able to reach out to so many people who are anxious and uncertain about treating their hearing loss. It was wonderful to be able to personally assure them that help is available."

Winning the Battle of the Bells: Hearing Technologies International, Inc. (formerly the hearing-aid division of Best Labs), of Pinellas Park, Florida, a major BHI sponsor, has granted funds for the reprinting of one of the Institute's most popular resources, *Tinnitus, or Head Noises*.

Harvey Romanek, CEO of Hearing Technologies International, Inc., has once again stepped forward to support BHI's educational initiative about tinnitus. "Ringing in the ears affects an estimated 50 million people, and 70% of the time hearing loss accompanies these annoying and disabling head noises," he said. "The Institute has once again taken a leadership role in educating the public about the help that is available for those who suffer from tinnitus."

BHI's tinnitus brochure has received a record-breaking response through the television and magazine PSAs featuring former First Lady **Rosalynn Carter**, who urges others to seek help for tinnitus as she has done. The Institute's PSAs have appeared on 189 television stations and in magazines with national circulation such as **People**, **Time**, **Newsweek**, **U.S. News and World Report**, **Family Circle**, and **Better Homes and Gardens**.

The 25¢ Challenge: At the recent annual meeting of the Mid America Conference of Hearing Instrument Specialists, participants from Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana pledged almost $4,000 to BHI. The pledges came in response to an appeal by BHI Board member and hearing-instrument specialist **Mike Stone**, who addressed the 400 conference participants about BHI's achievements and the importance of supporting it in its 25th-anniversary year.

Those who contribute $100 receive a prominent second listing on the contributors' page of BHI's Internet Hearing Care Providers Directory.

The Mid America Hearing Instrument Specialists intend to rally increased national support by issuing a challenge to their colleagues across the country: that 25¢ from each hearing aid

sold be contributed to BHI. Stone and Michele Hartlove will issue the challenge to attendees at the annual meeting of the International Hearing Society in Nashville in September.

"Hearing-health-care professionals know the importance of education for those with hearing loss," said Stone. "No association has educated so many so effectively as BHI. The Institute has spread the message that almost everyone can overcome hearing loss. BHI deserves our support and will use it to expand its services throughout the U.S. and Canada."

➳ BHI's consumer booklets *Help Through Hearing Aids—A Guide to Today's Hearing Instruments* and *Tinnitus, or Head Noises* are available free by calling Hearing Help-On-Line (☎800-EAR WELL) or through the BHI Website at ✷www.betterhearing.org. Multiple copies can be obtained by requesting BHI's resource catalogue at ☎888-HEAR HELP.

★ ★ ★ TRAVEL ★ ★ ★

THAT'S THE TICKET!

Accessible San Diego, a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting travelers with special needs, has produced its seventh edition of **Access in San Diego**, a guide designed to provide valuable information to visitors with disabilities.

The guide contains information on accessible lodging, dining, shopping, and attractions—e.g., hotels with roll-in showers, restaurants featuring Braille menus, and facilities offering assisted-listening equipment. Also included in the guide are area services, medical and equipment providers, plus accessible-tour and lift-equipped transportation companies.

"This guide is truly the definitive resource for San Diego visitors who require specialized access information," said Wes Johnson, Executive Director of Accessible San Diego. "Our goal is to provide visitors with disabilities the information they need to make their stay in America's Finest City more enjoyable."

For more than 9 years, Accessible San Diego has been the first and foremost information center for visitors and for the local hospitality industry. It provides valuable resources for the traveler with a disability via its information center, the Access in San Diego guide, hotline telephone number, and on the Web at ✷www.accessandiego.com.

Accessible San Diego also provides the hospitality community with ADA and state of California CCR Title 24 on-site accessibility evaluations and training.

The seventh edition of Access in San Diego was produced in cooperation with the following sponsors: City of San Diego Special Promotions Program, Evans Hotels, Port of San Diego, San Diego Zoological Society, San Diego Convention Center/Service America, San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, Viejas Casino and Turf Club, and Weaver Pacific Publications.

Materials produced by Accessible San Diego are available in alternate formats. Call ☎(619) 279-0704 for more information, or visit the Website.

➳ The services of Accessible San Diego are made possible by funding from the Port of San Diego, County of San Diego, City of San Diego, business sponsorships and private donations and the generous efforts of countless volunteers.

★ DISABILITY ISSUES ★

TOWARDS BARRIER-FREE WORSHIP

Will 2,000 U.S. religious congregations commit to welcoming people with disabilities as full and active participants by the year 2000?

That's the national goal announced on June 9 by the National Organization on Disability (N.O.D.) as they launched an unprecedented campaign to enhance greater religious opportunity for Americans with disabilities. The Accessible Congregations Campaign sponsored by N.O.D.'s Religion and Disability Program seeks the commitment of 2,000 congregations of all faiths to welcome people with disabilities as full and active participants by the Millennium. Initiative 2000, an Atlanta-based non-profit organization formed to celebrate the achievements and contributions of people with disabilities, joined N.O.D. in launching the campaign.

Ginny Thornburgh, spearheading the campaign, said, "This is the only disability program in the United States addressing interfaith issues. True religious access is about opening hearts, minds, and doors to millions of Americans with disabilities who seek a full life of faith. We are encouraging commitment, not perfection, from congregations. " Thornburgh serves as the Director of N.O.D.'s Religion and Disability Program.

According to a N.O.D.-commissioned Harris survey in 1994 on the attitudes of people with disabilities, 7 out of 10 consider their religious faith to be "very important." (N.O.D. recently released the results of a 1998 Harris follow-up survey.)

The goal of the Accessible Congregations Campaign is to increase the level of religious participation of children and adults with disabilities. To qualify as an Accessible Congregation and to receive a certificate, a house of worship must commit to the following three principles:

➳ In our congregation, people with disabilities are valued as individuals, having been created in the image of God;

➳ Our congregation is endeavoring to remove barriers of architecture, communications, and attitudes that exclude people with disabilities from full and active participation; and

➳ People, with and without disabilities, are encouraged to practice their faith and use their gifts in worship, service, study, and leadership.

By joining the campaign, an Accessible Congregation acknowledges that it has barriers to the full participation of people with disabilities and commits itself to begin the process of removing them.

Early endorsements for this historic campaign have been secured from 58 national and regional organizations, denominations, and ministries. Among those leaders are the National Council of Churches Committee on Disabilities; Paralyzed Veterans of America; Board of Church Extension of Disciples of Christ; Health and Welfare Ministries, General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church; Children's Defense Fund; and Council for Jews with Special Needs, Inc.

"Installing ramps, increasing the number of accessible parking spaces, providing sign-language interpreters, and enlarging print materials are only some of the steps congregations can take to widen their hospitality," said Reverend Harold Wilke, Director of The Healing Community. "We are encouraging congregations to move toward greater inclusion by involving people with disabilities in all levels of leadership and service," he added.

The campaign is the newest initiative of N.O.D.'s Religion and Disability Program, an interfaith effort since 1989, urging local congregations, national denominational groups, and seminaries to identify and remove the obstacles to worship that alienate people with disabilities. Tools available from the program include training conferences and publications such as the popular handbook **That All May Worship**, a step-by-step coaching manual written to enable congregations to break down existing barriers. Ginny Thornburgh, wife of former U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh and co-author of **That All May Worship**, has directed the Religion and Disability Program at N.O.D. for the past 9 years.

The Accessible Congregations Campaign was funded by a $25,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930 to "help people help themselves through the practical application of knowledge and resources to improve their quality of life and that of future generations." Its programming activities focus on the common visions of a world in which each person has a sense of worth.

For more information, contact N.O.D. at ☎(202) 293-5968 (TTY), ☎(202) 293-5960 (Voice), or ❖religion@nod.org.

A SYMBOL OF TRIUMPH

At the site of Washington's popular new memorial to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Vice President Al Gore joined the N.O.D. to launch the "Rendezvous with Destiny" Campaign. The N.O.D.'s ambitious goal is to raise the funds needed to construct and place America's first and only statue of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his wheelchair.

The Campaign was announced on July 2 at an event called and keynoted by Vice President Gore and Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. Representing N.O.D., which is leading the FDR statue effort, were Campaign Co-Chairman Michael Deland (N.O.D. Chairman) and Christopher Roosevelt, a grandson of the late President. The Campaign's honorary Chairman is former President George Bush.

As part of its commitment to officially complete the FDR Memorial, N.O.D. has pledged to raise $1.5 million in funds to construct this unprecedented and historic new statue of FDR in his wheelchair. The Campaign launch was marked by N.O.D.'s announcement of the first major gift of $100,000 from Gordon and Llura Gund. Mr. Gund is a successful business leader who is blind and active in blindness-prevention programs.

Three years ago, N.O.D. initiated and spearheaded efforts to add a statue of FDR in a wheelchair to the memorial, which has been visited by over two million people since its dedication in May 1997. Former Presidents Bush, Ford, and Carter, along with Roosevelt family members, joined thousands in the disability community in support of the effort. In July 1997, President Clinton signed legislation mandating this important addition to the memorial.

The Campaign's theme echoes President Roosevelt's calling to his own generation of Americans to a "rendezvous° with destiny," inspiring all Americans to persevere through the Great Depression and win World War II. FDR met his personal rendezvous with destiny beginning in 1921 when at age 39 he contracted polio; he never took another step unassisted. During his 12 years in the White House, he used a wheelchair every day. (Almost no photos exist of him using the wheelchair, though. He did his best to conceal his disability from the public, and the press cooperated.)

Michael Deland called on a new generation of Americans to fulfill yet another "rendezvous with destiny," by completing the FDR Memorial and adding a statue of FDR in his wheelchair. "Fifty years from now, schoolchildren will go through the memorial and know that FDR turned his disability into a source of strength, first for himself, then for all people. I am heartened by the vision to convey FDR's triumph over adversity as a symbol of what anyone, disabled or non-disabled, can achieve."

In addition to raising funds, N.O.D. will continue to educate the public about FDR's leadership of the nation and the world from a wheelchair.

"Ignoring FDR's disability in the memorial missed a central part of my grandfather's identity," said Christopher Roosevelt, the former President's grandson. "His battle with polio helped forge his leadership qualities of determination, compassion, patience and courage."

Alan A. Reich, N.O.D. President, said, "We commend Congress, President Clinton, Vice President Gore, and Secretary Babbitt for their vision and leadership. We are grateful to the Roosevelt family for their spirited commitment. Most importantly, we thank the many thousands of people, with and without disabilities, all across America for their forceful and effective advocacy leading to tomorrow's victory celebration. This is democracy at its best!"

rendezvous: (*noun*) a prearranged meeting place or appointed meeting, used in a romantic sense, or a military or

political sense (as used here). (From the French phrase *rendez vous*, "present yourselves," and pronounced *"raan-day-voo."*)

★ PETS & COMPANIONS ★

BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

Solo was a 3-year-old German Shepherd, born in Germany and trained in tracking with the Monmouth County (New Jersey) Sheriff's Department, who was sent into an apartment building in Asbury Park and was shot by a fugitive.

The last thing Solo did before entering the building was to lick his owner's face. He then jumped over debris and went inside. He was killed a short time afterward. As a result of Solo's tragic death, the Associated Humane Societies has set up the *Vested Interest Fund.*

As a special tribute to Solo's loyalty and devotion, the Society has contacted local and county-police K-9° units. Funds that are raised in this program will be used to purchase bulletproof vests for tracking dogs. These cost approximately $1,000 each. The AHS will donate the first $1,000 to open the fund.

Hopefully, this will thwart future K-9 killings. Each day, these dogs risk their lives for us. This is the very least we can do for them.

The AHS with Animal Care Centers in Newark, Union, Tinton Falls, and Forked River, also urges local scouting, civic, and community groups to become involved at a local level in helping a K-9 dog.

For more information on the Vested Interest Fund or to donate to this cause, contact **Roseann Trezza**, Assistant Director at the Associated Humane Societies, 124 Evergreen Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07114; ☎(973) 824-7080 (Voice); ☎(973) 824-2720 (FAX).

K-9: (*used as adjective*) a phonetic pun on *canine*, an adjective of Latin origin referring to dogs. Used specifically to mean dogs selected for their intelligence and specially trained to assist in police work—e.g., tracking down escaped criminals, locating lost children, sniffing out smuggled drugs, and rescuing victims of accidents and disasters.

FIDO DID NOT "WANDER OFF"!

The AHS is sending out a statewide alarm over a rash° of pet thefts in various areas of New Jersey.

In the past few months, reports have been received of unneutered male purebred dogs that have been stolen from their owners' property. Four dogs, including a Golden Retriever, Dalmatian, and a Spaniel, were stolen from Morris County and one male purebred dog was abducted from Sussex County. A brown van was spotted in at least two of the incidents.

These are not isolated incidents. AHS urges pet owners to keep their dogs safe, under their control. When not at home, keep your pet inside. Do not tie your dogs outdoors or leave them unattended in yards or cars.

Most dog owners victimized this way believe that their pet has "wandered off," jumped the fence, or been taken by an animal lover. Pet theft is a big business. Stolen dogs are used in illegal puppy-mill breeding, as bait in dog fights, or are sold for experimentation.

If you have any information or require additional assistance, contact Morris County SPCA at ☎(973)-625-2670 (Voice) or In Defense of Animals at ☎1-800-STOLEN PET (Voice).

If you love your pets, don't leave them alone outside!

rash: (*noun*) outbreak or series, especially of crimes committed by the same person or gang.

BITS & PIECES

☞ Dr. **Otto J. Menzel** of Bristol, Tennessee, late-deafened author and outspoken critic of Bi-Bi and Gallaudet University, died on July 1, of pancreatic cancer. **Tom Bertling**, another prominent Bi-Bi critic, has just published **ASL: Shattering the Myth**, a new collection of essays by various authors, including Dr. Menzel. Bertling tells us, "The family was pleased that he was able to finish his work on **ASL: Shattering the Myth**. Dr. Menzel served as the copy-editor (grammatical) and proofreader and greatly enjoyed participating in the project. Dr. Menzel had a great deal of courage and integrity and will be missed by many friends and colleagues. The average deaf person in America has suffered a grievous loss."

He was a retired audiologist and editor of **Life After Deafness Journal**, published numerous essays and articles, and co-authored **Food for Thought**, a lighthearted but pointed satire on the divisions and labels within the Deaf community.

☞ **Buzz, buzz!** The New York Society for the Deaf has signed a contract with BellSouth Wireless Data to deploy the BellSouth Interactive Paging Service for better, more reliable employee communications.

NYSD, celebrating more than 85 years of service in the New York metropolitan area, is using this IPS for its full-time employees, 50% of whom are deaf. Executives, interpreters, nurses, and case managers within the Society have found the IPS to be useful. "BellSouth Wireless Data has really helped equalize the communications 'playing field' for professionals who are deaf by offering a service that provides real-time communications capabilities," says **Pearl Johnson**, NYSD Executive Director. "Being able to communicate anytime from any place—regardless of telephone-display-device accessibility—translates directly into a better quality of life for those who are deaf."

☞ **Family fun:** According to the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf release: "The Family Learning Vacation Weekend is a wonderful opportunity for families to have an enjoyable and memorable experience learning new things and

CLASSIFIED

Mill Neck Services Job Development Program

Are you Deaf or Hard of Hearing? Are you looking for work? Mill Neck Service's Job Development Program can help you obtain employment. Please contact our agency at ☎(516) 922-3334 (TTY) or ☎(516) 922-3818 (Voice).

Sign Language Interpreters

Need a Sign Language Interpreter for special events? Contact Mill Neck Services Interpreter Referral at ☎(516) 922-3334 (TTY) or ☎(516) 922-3818 (Voice).

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PSYCHOLOGIST FACULTY POSITION

University of Rochester Medical Center

The Department of Psychiatry is expanding its programs in mental health and the deaf population. We are announcing a new, tenure-track faculty position at the Senior Instructor or Assistant Professor level. This 12-month position involves 50% clinical service duties (primarily deaf and hard-of-hearing consumers), 30% research and professional development duties, 10% teaching and supervision duties within the medical school and the Department's "Program for Deaf Trainees," and 10% program development duties. This position requires fluency in both American Sign Language and written English, a PhD in Clinical Psychology or related discipline, and the drive and ability to pursue a nationally recognized academic career through clinical scholarship. Salary and benefits are competitive. Candidates should submit a vita, cover letter, and list of references to:

Robert Pollard, PhD
Associate Professor of Psychiatry (Psychology)
URMC Department of Psychiatry
300 Crittenden Boulevard
Rochester, NY 14643
716/275-3544 voice or TTY
Robert_Pollard@urmc.rochester.edu

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meeting other families of deaf and hard-of-hearing children."

WPSD held its Fourth Annual Family Learning Vacation from June 5-7. Eighteen families participated, bringing grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings, totaling about 100 participants. They came from Cambria, Butler, Fayette, and Allegheny Counties.

The featured speakers were Freeman King, Ed.D. and his wife, Jan Kelly-King, M.S. Dr. King is a professor of Deaf Education and instructor in Deaf Education and Sign Language Studies at Utah State University. Both have experience working with families and young deaf and hard-of-hearing children and have presented at national conferences such as ASDC's.

Highlights for the weekend included a Comfy Couch Party starring Loonette and Molly and a trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo. Before the families went to the zoo, the Kings taught them some sign language so they would be prepared to communicate with their children. After their returned from the zoo, families discussed their experiences and the Kings discuss language-development opportunities.

For information on upcoming family activities, contact WPSD at 300 Swissvale Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1469; ☎(412) 371-7000 or ☎(412) 244-4228 (TTY/Voice); or ❐(412) 244-4251 (FAX).

➤ = Taken or adapted from NJ-L News.